



AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 51

JULY 1988

**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
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CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT) AFGHANISTAN

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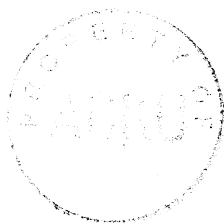
1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

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IJAZ S. GILANI
FAZAL-UR-RAHMAN

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ACRONYMS

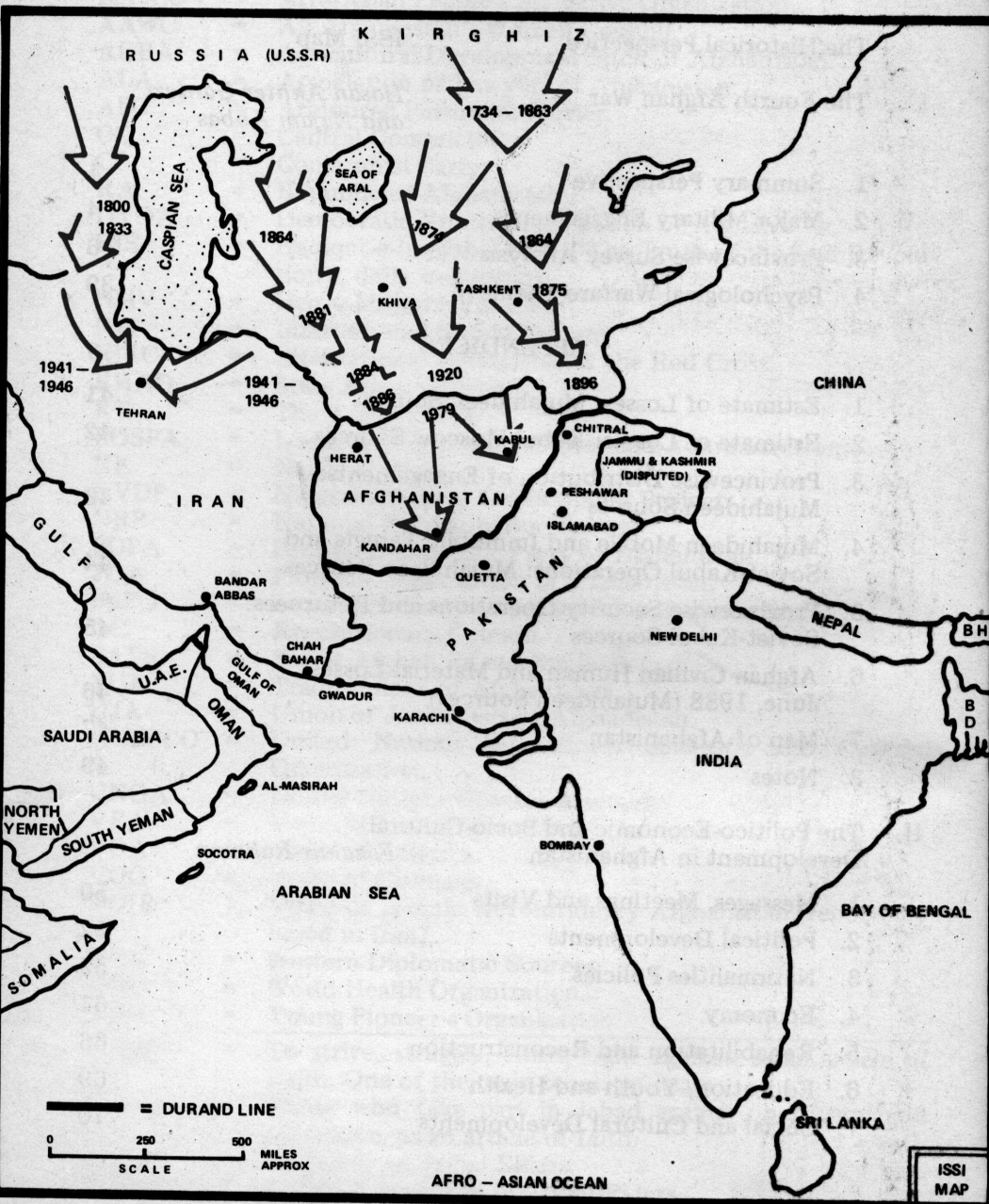
AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
NVDP	=	Ningarhar Valley Development Project.
NRP	=	National Reconciliation Policy.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

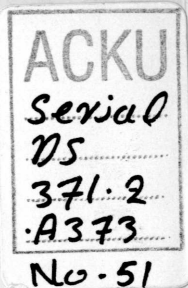
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THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE





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I.— THE FOURTH AFGHAN WAR

1 — SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE (see Map Appendix 7)

Mujahideen sources reported 231 incidents in 27 out of 30 provinces of Afghanistan during June 1988. No reports of combat were received from Farah, Uruzgan and Bamiyan provinces.

The 231 engagements comprised of 42 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 115 strikes against immobile targets. Soviet-Kabul forces conducted at least 44 air and 30 ground strikes against Mujahideen fixed position and mobile groups.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Qandahar, Kabul and Faryab followed by Kunar, Ningarhar and Balkh provinces.

Afghan civilian losses rose considerably in June 1988. The worst sufferers were the civilian population in Faryab province (see Appendix 6). Two different sources in their separate reports stated that Soviet aircraft flying from Tashkent and Termez bombarded villages around Faryab's provincial capital.

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 13 provincial capitals including the major cities of Qandahar and Kabul.

Defections

According to Mujahideen reports about 299 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen in June 1988. Defections took place in 10 Afghan provinces.

Another 253 Kabul troops either surrendered after clashes with Mujahideen or were captured.

Soviet-Kabul Combat Coverage

Combat coverage by Soviet and Kabul sources continued to expand considerably in June 1988. Review of some reports regarding military activities, pullout progress and implementation/violation of Geneva accords follows:

Monthwise Coverage by Radio Kabul

Month	Security Forces Operations	Extremists Operations	Total Engagements	No. of Provinces reported
June 1988	85	38	123	20
May 1988	50	51	101	19
April 1988	18	21	39	11

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, in the preparation of this part of the monthly report.

As per figures reported above the number of operations conducted by Kabul regime forces has risen over the months.

Kabul Times carried reports stressing combat readiness of different sections of the Afghan people and armed forces.

Both Soviet and Kabul media expressed the hope that Kabul Regime forces would be able to withstand Mujahideen pressures after the pull out of Soviet troops. They played up the theme of "rebel infighting" in June 1988, reporting almost every day clashes among various groups of Mujahideen.

Mujahideen activities reported by Soviet-Kabul Sources

In its 'Focus on Asia' programme Radio Moscow reported on June 18 that "fighting in a number of areas in the provinces bordering on Pakistan ... has become ... more intense".

Krasnaya Zvezda's Kabul correspondent interviewed the Chief of Staff of Kabul forces, General Shah Nawaz Tani. The paper published the interview on June 18.

It quoted General Tani as saying that "the enemy seeks actively to influence the army and tries to demoralize it. Pamphlets are constantly appearing calling the people to go over to the irreconcilables, and soldiers are subjected to religious indoctrination. Unfortunately, in some places the ideological Saboteurs are managing to achieve their goals".

Referring to the activities of the 'extremists' Radio Kabul in its June 26 Pashto news said: "The Soviet Union has been accused of indulging in terrorism. The fact is that the criminal extremists are continuing such activities. The extremists continue firing rockets and missiles on Kabul city and other towns of Afghanistan. Between June 17 and 19, populated areas of Afghanistan were shelled 20 times. As a result of this, 9 people were killed and 22 others injured".

Implementation of Geneva Accords

Soviet media in general, and Kabul media in particular is conducting an extensive propaganda campaign charging Pakistan with violation of Geneva Accords. In fact Pakistan is held responsible for all "subversive and terrorist activities conducted by elements of armed opposition". Radio Kabul reported on June 15 that "in Afghanistan, extremist armed groups have fired rockets on a number of towns and villages ... Bakhtar agency says Pakistan has been arming Afghan terrorists in violation of Geneva agreements".

At a meeting of the Afghan Parliament on June 27, Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil presented a report on the implementation of the

Geneva agreements. It said that "since May 14 upto present day (June 27) we have conveyed to the leadership of Pakistan through a group of UN observers 33 notes which report 222 violations from the 437 that have occurred". By June 30 the number of such protest notes reached 36.

Afghan Chief of Staff reviews military situation

General Shah Nawaz Tani, Chief of the Afghan Army speaking on Kabul Radio assessed the situation for the 33 days period from May 15 to June 18:

He said that intense psychological warfare was being waged against Afghanistan resulting in the creation of "severe pressures". He said: "A number of extremist groups have stepped up or intensified their attacks in the areas from where Soviet contingents have withdrawn. This they do in order to prove their existence and power".

General Tani gave out estimates of losses inflicted on the Counter Revolutionaries by the Kabul regime troops. He said that "over a month-long period, the extremists had suffered 1,200 killed, 1,500 wounded and 135 captured". He warned that if the extremist groups continue with their attacks, the "Afghan armed forces would be compelled to use weapons and forces which has not been used so far".

Pullout progress reviewed by Soviet Major General

A number of press conferences and briefings were held in Kabul and Moscow on Afghanistan. One of these "devoted to the problems of settlement of situation regarding Afghanistan" was held in Moscow, June 23. It was addressed by a senior Defence Ministry official.

At a briefing in Kabul on June 29, Major General Zekharov Director, Political section of the Soviet contingents in Afghanistan reported the pullout progress.

He said that "Soviet Union had (by that time) withdrawn 20,000 troops and officers along with their arms and military equipment. In other words, he said, 13 Divisions of airforce and Infantry had been withdrawn. While withdrawing, the Soviet troops were handing their barracks and equipment to the Afghan forces. They had trained 1,200 Afghan experts in the use of this equipment. In addition to that more than 12,000 Soviet civilian personnel had returned home. This added up to some 32,000 military and civilian Soviet personnel withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Soviet Equipment Withdrawn

According to Radio Moscow, June 30, the commander of Soviet troops in Afghanistan Lt. General Boris Gromov met foreign journalists in Moscow. He told the newsmen that besides 20,000 servicemen "three thousand units of military hardware" had also been withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Casualties sustained by withdrawing troops

Responding a query about casualties, General Gromov said that since 15 May, 10 persons had been killed and 15 wounded. These losses, he said, were sustained not when the troops were returning home, but as a result of fire attacks on the garrisons and acts of subversion.

Radio Moscow also carried Major General Zakharov's interview with a correspondent in Kabul. Zakharov said: "withdrawal of Soviet troops is going on in a complicated military and political situation. Tension is constantly wiped up by the armed opposition which indulges in violent attacks and also subversion".

2 — MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

The Afghan Mujahideen exerted great pressure on Kabul troops in Spinbuldak area of Qandahar province since the third week of May. They also conducted spectacular attacks on the provincial capitals of Zabul, Kalat and Wardak, Maidan Shehr, details of which follow in the provincewise analysis.

The main objective of Mujahideen activity in June was perhaps not to occupy cities but rather:

- (i) To challenge the defence capabilities of troops serving the PDPA regime.
- (ii) To cause dents in the defence fortifications or security belts established by Soviet-Kabul troops around certain cities.
- (iii) To target communist bases that are located on important highways leading to major cities.
- (iv) To weaken the morale of Kabul troops so as to induce them to join the ranks of the Mujahideen.
- (v) To make the Kabul troops realize that the Mujahideen are capable of attacking their positions.
- (iv) To create a sense of insecurity and vulnerability among opponents.

Highways blocked

The Afghan Mujahideen blocked the highway between Spin Buldak and Qandahar in early June. Western Diplomatic sources quoted travellers as saying that the main highway from just outside Qandahar to Muqur in north-east was under Mujahideen control. The Mujahideen also created difficulties in Soviet troops' movement along the western routes to Herat city.

In June, Mujahideen established their control on the area between Pul-e-Alam and Mohammad Agha town of Logar province.

On June 13, VIRA reported that Mujahideen were blocking roads leading to Khost town in a bid to re-establish siege the cantonment.

On June 23, the Mujahideen blocked the Kabul-Jalalabad highway by destroying a bridge between Sarobi and Spinathana. On June 24 and 25, traffic on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway remained disturbed due to Mujahideen operations.

Losses inflicted to the Afghan Airforce

A 1st June report says that Mujahideen attacked an airstrip in Hilmand province. Two helicopters were damaged. On June 7, Mujahideen downed a helicopter at Maimana airport, Faryab province.

On June 8, Mujahideen destroyed 2 helicopters in a raid on Qalat Ghilzai airport in Zabul province. On June 9, Mujahideen attacked Shindand airbase, Herat province.

On June 7, a transport plane returning to Kabul was shot down. On June 12, another transport aircraft and a helicopter were destroyed. Seven Kabul regime officers were killed.

Mujahideen fired rockets at the Khost airstrip on June 21.

Raids on Kabul Airport

Kabul airport witnessed fierce attacks by Mujahideen. A hanger was hit on June 10. On June 23, an explosion destroys an ammunition depot at the airport.

Mujahideen fired rockets at the Kabul airports on June 24. BBC correspondent Gordon Martin who visited Kabul quote diplomats saying that "five Sukhui-25 jet fighter planes were destroyed at the airport and three suffered heavy damage". This accident took place as a result of attack by guerillas now possessing missiles of 30 kilometres range the report said.

Demise of Chief of Air Staff Aziz Sarwari

The Kabul Times published an obituary note on June 8 on the demise of Maj. Gen. Mohammad Aziz Sarwari. His funeral was attend-

ed by "the leading body of the air and air defence general command, generals and high ranking officers". Western diplomats believe that General Sarwari was killed in a guerilla action. A Mujahideen source suspects that Sarwari was in a helicopter which was shot down over Qandahar—Spin Buldak area on June 6.

Military Position Captured by Mujahideen

In late May, Mujahideen entered Gird district headquarters of Ghazni province and Teyes Garrison in Badakhshan. On June 2, Mujahideen captured Shadian town in Balkh. Mujahideen captured Barjek town in Helmand on 8 June. On June 10 Mujahideen captured Chowrian town in Herat. On June 15 Mujahideen captured Bakali military camp in Ghor province.

On June 16 Mujahideen captured the sub-divisional town of Shehr-e-Safa, Zabul province. Earlier Mujahideen attacks on Zabul's provincial capital Qalat caused collapse of the defence structure of the Kabul regime. Radio Moscow admitted on 27 June in its Urdu commentary that "in fact, the city was attacked and shelled, and several peaceful citizens became victims of the shelling, but the attacks were foiled and now (June 27) the Afghan troops are weeding out the extremists".

Mujahideen claimed that they had liberated Bagram area of Parwan province on June 23. Mujahideen also captured Paymazar area near Panjsher valley and Ahangara post along Salang highway. On June 26 Mujahideen captured Maidan city of Wardak province which they could not hold for long. From here they carried off large quantities of arms and ammunition and other stores.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Nimroz

Mujahideen sources: The "Governor" of Nimroz—name not mentioned—was seriously injured at Khash Rod township, north-west of the provincial headquarters, Zaranj, on June 8, when Mujahideen attacked a 'Ruling Party' office where he was presiding over a meeting. The office building was badly damaged in the missile attack. Eight other 'office bearers' of the Parcham party were also injured.

VIRA: Mujahideen destroyed a bridge in Charburjak Uluswali (News Persian: 25 June, 1988).

In fierce battle between the Afghan Mujahideen and the communist troops in Nimroz province, more than 50 Kabul troops were killed and many others injured while a huge quantity of arms and ammunition of the communists was also set ablaze by the Afghan Mujahideen. Another

report says that the Afghan Mujahideen demolished a number of government security posts (News Persian: 27 June, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen launched an attack on a Soviet-Kabul military convoy in Nimroz province and prevented the advance of the convoy. The convoy was forced to retreat after suffering 15 casualties at the hands of the Afghan Mujahideen (News Persian: 1 June, 1988).

VOA: Another telephonic report says that in south western province of Nimroz, Mujahideen have captured Borjek town on the bank of river Hilmand. The sources say that attack on this town was launched on the morning of June 8 and in the evening communist troops pulled out. Meanwhile, reinforcements came from the nearby Kabul Khan garrison for Afghan troops but they too retreated after losing two tanks and one truck. The sources say that the goods seized by the Mujahideen include three trucks, three tanks and 120 light and heavy guns. Borjek town is about 50 kilometres from the Iranian border and about 80 kilometres from Pakistani border (Radio Report Urdu: 18 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: In the light of national reconciliation policy and Geneva agreement another 31 families of our compatriotes consisting of 223 persons have recently returned home from Iran. After receiving necessary assistance the returnees were transferred to their native localities in Nimroz province (News English: 22 June, 1988).

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: On June 11, Mujahideen attacked an army camp near Lashkargah, provincial headquarters. Two armoured vehicles were destroyed and 8 Soviet-Kabul troops killed. A tank of a mobile force was damaged when it hit a landmine at Garam Sale.

On June 22, Mujahideen attacked a security post near Grishik. Four Soviet-Kabul troops killed. Mujahideen also secured release of 12 conscripts at Khushik Aab.

VIRA: The Mujahideen hit an enemy airbase in Hilmand province killing 30 Soviet-Kabul troops. In the operation heavy damage was caused to 3 helicopters (News Persian: 1 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In a series of operations, the Afghan Mujahideen have killed 100 Soviet troops in Hilmand province. The Afghan Mujahideen also arrested the Governor of that province (News Urdu: 7 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: BIA correspondent reports that a group of extremist elements, who were trying to disturb the peaceful lives of the noble people of Hilmand province have been crushed by the alert security forces of the country. Four other extremists were arrested during the operation. Report adds that large quantities of arms including one rocket launcher, four Klashnikovs and a quantity of ammunition were

seized from these criminals (News Pushto: 23 June, 1988).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: 17 May: Mujahideen shelled posts of the Qandahar security belt. Four APCs and vehicles were destroyed.

19 May: Mujahideen shell the Qandahar Division and a KHAD (state secret police) office inside Qandahar. Ten soldiers were killed and eight wounded.

On the same date, a regime post was attacked by the Mujahideen in the area of Kachi waz Ziarat (Spin Boldak District).

25 May: The Mujahideen destroyed two Russian tanks with rocket launchers in the area of Hazratji Baba in Qandahar.

In retaliation, Russian aircraft bombarded civilian targets in the area, killing 80 children, women and old men.

28 May: Mujahideen attack Doraha, east of Qandahar, hitting an armoured vehicle and killing 4 Soviet-Kabul soldiers.

30 May: Russian aircraft bombard villages in Panjwai area. Twenty civilians killed and more than 50 injured.

31 May: Mujahideen attack a "Russian force" in Panjwai area. Three vehicles hit.

Mujahideen attacked the border town of Spin Boldak. A number of tanks and other vehicles destroyed. In the fighting in this area which has been continuing for several days, both sides have suffered heavy casualties.

Mujahideen conduct hit and run attacks on Qandahar cantonment. Several Soviet-Kabul troops including two 'high ranking officers' were killed.

Fierce fighting was continuing for the fortified border town of Spin Boldak on June 5. Mujahideen were reported to have shot down an aeroplane and captured 3 security posts, Aureng, Arghani and Dat. On the previous day nine Mujahideen were killed and 30 injured. Soviet-Kabul casualties were much higher.

On the Qandahar city front, Mujahideen repeatedly attacked Soviet-Kabul positions within the city between June 4 and 7. One hundred and twenty Kabuli troops surrendered to the Mujahideen. The Mujahideen also captured arms and ammunition.

On June 13, Mujahideen launched a sizeable attack on Soviet-Kabul security posts in Arghandab area. These posts form part of the First Security Belt protecting the Qandahar city. At least 34 government troops were killed and a large number fled toward Qandahar cantonment. Some of the security posts were demolished.

On June 19, a military camp was attacked in Arghandab. A tank

and a jeep were hit.

On June 21, Urban Guerillas hit the Qandahar airport and Qandahar cantonment in simultaneous attacks. Two tanks and a military vehicle were destroyed and an ammunition depot blown up.

On June 22, Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul forces clashed in Arghandab. Two tanks belonging to an advancing mobile column were destroyed.

VIRA: According to another report the Mujahideen attacked the bases and posts of the joint troops in Deh Khawaja and Kabul Darwaza areas in Qandahar city recently. In the course of these operations, two posts of the communists were destroyed. Yet another report from Qandahar says that a military convoy of the joint troops in Qandahar was ambushed by the Mujahideen, as a result of which two tanks of the enemy were destroyed.

During the past five days, fighting between the Mujahideen and the joint enemy troops in Spin Buldak Woleswali of Qandahar province intensified. The intensity of the fighting was so high that the border town of Chaman in Baluchistan (Pakistan territory) was affected and on Tuesday several gun shells landed in that town (1 June, 1988).

Reports from Qandahar province say that in a series of operations, the Mujahideen shot down a fighter plane of the Kabul communist regime in Spin Buldak area. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition and captured three posts of Soviet-Afghan troops during these operations (News Pushto: 13 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In a fierce battle against the Soviet-Kabul troops, Afghan Mujahideen demolished a number of enemy positions and military posts of the Kabul regime and blocked Qandahar-Spin Buldak highway.

The report adds that in the battle, a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was seized by the Afghan Mujahideen (News Persian: 6 June, 1988).

Similarly, the Afghan Mujahideen killed 100 communist troops and captured 100 others in Spin Buldak area along Pak-Afghan border and also blocked the highway between Spin Buldak and Qandahar.

They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition (News Pushto: 6-7 June, 1988).

The Soviet troops are reported to have bombarded residential areas in Qandahar province on Jauza 20 in which more than 20 civilians were martyred and 50 others injured (News Pushto: 6-7 June, 1988).

BBC: Western diplomats in Pakistan say Afghan guerillas are continuing their attacks against Soviet troops withdrawing from Afghanistan. As George Arney reports from Islamabad, it seems the attacks may

have delayed Soviet troops withdrawal from the southern Afghan city of Qandahar (News English: 7 June, 1988).

Earlier the Soviet newspaper, *Izvestia*, reported that Afghan guerillas killed five Soviet troops who were guarding a convoy of Soviet forces returning from Pakistani border area.

The newspaper said that the military convoy was travelling on the main Qandahar-Kabul highway when a rocket attack was carried out. Two soldiers were killed while another three Soviet troops were captured and later killed by the guerillas (News Urdu: 4 June, 1988).

The Chief of Staff of the Afghan Air Force is reported to have been killed in heavy fighting around the southern city of Qandahar.

Western diplomats in Islamabad say the officer, Major General Mohammad Aziz Sarwari was killed last week. The diplomats believe General Sarwari was killed in the guerilla action but the government in Kabul says he died of natural causes.

Rebels in the area are fighting to take control of the road leading to Qandahar from the Pakistani border (News English/Urdu: 14 June, 1988).

VOA: Meanwhile, reports from Afghanistan's second largest city Qandahar indicate intense fighting has continued. Over the past several days the communist government defences were pushed back to the city limits. VOA's John Shultz reports from Islamabad the fighting has delayed the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers from Qandahar.

Western diplomats in Islamabad report communist casualties from the fighting in Qandahar are extremely high. Between May 23rd and 25th the remains of sixty soldiers were flown to Kabul. One Afghan civilian searching for a dead relatives was reportedly forced to search through the remains of atleast three hundred other soldiers still unburied as on June 1st. For several days now travellers have reported the entire main highway from just outside Qandahar to Makur more than two hundred kilometres Northeast, was in the Mujahideen control. They say Kalat the provincial capital of Zabul is as an island under siege in this situation. For those Soviet troops trying to leave Qandahar this means that both the main routes North and difficult or impossible because the Mujahideen also set up many points on the Western routes to Herat city.

Since June 3rd Mujahideen commanders on the scene report three aircraft per night flying Soviet forces out of Qandahar, the scene of the biggest and perhaps longest Soviet military offensives against the Mujahideen (News English: 8 June, 1988).

Our Islamabad based correspondent Irfan Ghazi has sent us following report on the situation in Afghanistan:

Atleast 90 villagers were killed and a similar number were injured by the indiscriminate shelling near Qandahar city by the Soviet artillery. This shelling was carried out on the surrounding villages in retaliation to Mujahideen's attack on Soviet military base of Jakan, ten kilometres east of Qandahar, on June 6. A Western correspondent was also present on this occasion. He has arrived in Quetta alongwith a Mujahideen commander, Haji Latif. Both the sources say that countless injured are lying in Qandahar city but official Civil Hospital has refused to provide them medical aid. Qandahar, which is the second largest city of the country after Kabul has been under strong pressure of Mujahideen for the last over a month. Defence fortification established by Soviet and Afghan communist troops around the city have already broken. Communist forces have now taken positions inside the city where majority of population supports the Mujahideen. Batches of Mujahideen have continuously been attacking the positions of their opponents. But Mujahideen say that they are now concentrating on those communist bases that are located on important highways leading to the city. A similar forceful offensive on Afghan garrison of Baba Shah Wali situated in northeast of Qandahar city was also launched two days prior to the attack at Jakan, which continued for five days, and as a result, Mujahideen captured seven out of sixteen posts of the garrison on the morning of June 8. Eight of the Mujahideen were injured in the fighting included a local commander known as Haji who is now under treatment in a hospital in Quetta. Haji said that fourteen Mujahideen lost their lives in the fighting. He added that there is a great shortage of food like rice, sugar and edible oils in the city due to fierce fighting, going on for the last two weeks in Spin Buldak area located in southeast of Qandahar and trade with Pakistan through this route is therefore closed these days. During the fighting Mujahideen have captured many border posts of communists (Radio Report Urdu: 11 June, 1988).

Official in the Pakistani border town of Chaman confirmed reports of an artillery exchange late Sunday night between Pakistani Army Units and Afghan government militiamen near Spin Buldak. From Islamabad VOA's John Shultz reports that this is the first time such retaliatory attacks have been officially confirmed:

In more than two weeks fighting in Spin Buldak only eight kilometres from Pakistan has been so intense, that many residents in nearby Chaman have left their homes temporarily. Last weekend, Soviet-built aircraft bombed the outskirts of the Pakistani city but

no one was reported hurt. Now officials in Chaman confirmed about 50 artillery shells fired Sunday night from a militia post in Afghanistan landed near border security post on the Chaman out-skirts. Officials say the artillery units were under orders to fire back into Afghanistan.

There have been so many communist border violations in the past three years. There was only news when they caused major casualties. Pakistan has lodged more than 800 protests regarding artillery border violations by the end of 1987 with nearly 700 persons killed and over 1,000 wounded.

A news report just in, but could not be independently confirmed, says 3 Pakistanis have died and ten wounded in an attack at Chaman Monday night (Radio Report English: 14 June, 1988).

AIR: Quoting AFP, a front page press report says that more than 100 people have been killed in bloody clashes at Spin Buldak town in Southeast Afghanistan close to the Pakistan border, during the last two days.

According to the report, although the Afghan soldiers had been besieged in the town for many days yet the arrival of reinforcement and supplies has strengthened their position. A Mujahideen Commander said that 102 people including 30 guerillas were killed in fighting during the last twenty four hours.

Spin Buldak which is situated on route from Pakistan to Southeast Afghanistan, serves as security post for Qandahar, the second largest town of Afghanistan (Jahan Numa Urdu: 7 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Six local rebel commanders were killed in the southern province of Qandahar and two in an adjoining province. Several other rebels were killed in operations in Farah, Ningarhar and Laghman provinces (News English: 12 June, 1988).

In Spin Buldak Ulaswali of Qandahar province, the security forces have destroyed several vehicles of the terrorists and also wiped out a strong group (14 June, 1988).

KNT: Kabul, June 8, (BIA) Maj. Gen. Mohammad Aziz Sarwari, Chief of the General Staff of the air force of the Republic of Afghanistan, who died of illness yesterday at the age of 48 was laid to rest with military honours in his ancestral cemetery in Shuhadaie Salihin.

The funeral was attended by Col. Gen. Nazar Mohammad head of the armed forces department of the PDPA CC, the leading body of the air and air defence general command, generals and high ranking officers and friends and relatives of the deceased.

Maj. Gen. Mohammad Aziz Sarwari was a recipient of the order of red banner, second and third grade star and medals of good services and tenth anniversary of April Revolution (Kabul Times: 8 June, 1988).

According to a report from Qandahar province, an extremist group was smashed yesterday in Spin Buldak district. Five extremists were killed and various weapons including one unit for launching land-to-land rockets destroyed, the report added (KNT: 14 June, 1988).

Radio Moscow: A band of criminals which indulged in the killing of people was also eliminated in Qandahar province (News Urdu: 13 June, 1988).

A Pakistani journalist associated with an Islamabad based English daily, "*The Muslim*" Irshad Ahmad was killed in Qandahar area inside Afghanistan. According to reports, he went to Afghanistan with a group of extremists to see the Afghan extremists occupy border military posts vacated by the returning Soviet troops.

The jeep carrying Irshad Ahmad and nine Afghan extremists was hit during a shoot out between official military units and the Afghan militants. His body is to be flown to Rawalpindi for burial (21 June, 1988).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: 23 May: Mujahideen capture 12 KHAD agents in the liberated area of Atghar. They were handed over to the Revolutionary Court in Atghar Town.

27 May: Soviet-Kabul planes hit Atghar. A number of houses demolished.

29 May: In a surprise attack Mujahideen destroy an arms and ammunition depot in sub-divisional town of Jaldak along the Kabul-Qandahar highway.

On June 8 the Mujahideen destroyed 2 helicopters in a raid on Qalat Ghilzai airport.

On June 16, the Mujahideen after "getting control" of Qalat Ghilzai succeeded in capturing the sub-divisional town of Shehre Safa. Four Mujahideen were killed against 22 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. A tank and seven other vehicles and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition were captured from the military garrison in Shehre Safa, 68 kilometres south of Qalat Ghilzai.

VIRA: Fierce battles have been raging between the Afghan Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops in Zabul and Qandahar provinces during the last one month. More than 300 Soviet-Kabul troops have been killed and a large number of others injured (News Persian: 21 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Mujahideen announced yesterday the appointment of an Islamic governor and judge for the Kalat city, the provincial headquarter of south eastern province of Zabul. The Mujahideen captu-

red Zabul last Friday after a few days of fierce fighting. The sources add that a Radio station, an organized communication centre, some research institutes and installations are operational in Kalat of fifty to sixty thousand population (News Urdu: 2 June, 1988).

BBC: Afghan government says they have defeated guerilla fighters at the provincial capital of Kalat in southern Afghanistan which the guerillas were reported to have captured last week.

According to the Afghan news agency, the government troops killed 25 guerillas and destroyed ammunition and food stores.

The latest report of the fighting from guerilla sources said yesterday that they have taken most of the government posts and offices in Kalat and were preparing for an assault for remaining military outposts in the hills overlooking the town (News English: 20 June, 1988).

VOA: Afghan rebels say they have withdrawn from the city of Kalat in order to prevent civilian casualties in the fighting with government troops. Kalat the capital of Zabul province fell to the Mujahideen late last week. They were not able to take the army garrison. However, troops have been pounding the city with artillery fire. The Mujahideen say they pulled back outside the city because civilians refused to evacuate even under the artillery barrage (News English: 14 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Western press is making a false propaganda that headquarters of Zabul province, Kalat city, has been occupied by the extremists. In this connection a military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported from Kalat that the provincial headquarters is under the full control of the Afghan armed forces. As a result of the successful operations of the Afghan armed forces in the outskirts of Zabul province heavy casualties were inflicted on the extremists groups. Two hundred and twenty were killed or injured in the operations. Similarly a number of hideouts of the extremists have also been destroyed (25 June, 1988).

Radio Moscow: For the past few weeks reports sent by western correspondents from Afghanistan, are being deliberately presented as victory reports. The same sentiments are also found in the statements of several politicians. For instance the coordinator of the US State Department's policy in Afghanistan, Zalme Khalilzad said that the speed with which the Afghan guerillas captured vast area had never been speculated earlier. But which victories are talked about? The victories are a farce. Actually the areas from where the Soviet troops are recalled are considered as captured areas.

The American sources deliberately ignore the fact that the same administration remains in these areas and the Afghan army too has effective control on them. But when the Muslim Opposition did not

gain any success, then some new tactics were needed. How could the so-called 'interim government' be formed by Afghan opposition groups inside Afghanistan. A news was released some time back that the Muslim opposition had succeeded in capturing Kalat city. BBC and VOA reported this news but on enquiry, it proved false. Like in the past Kalat and its adjoining areas are still fully under control of the Afghan government and the armed forces are confidently defending it. In fact, the city was attacked and shelled and several peaceful citizens became victims of the shelling, but the attacks were foiled and now the Afghan troops are wiping out the extremists.

It is quite clear that extremists claim of these fake victories is totally unfounded (Radio Moscow Commentary Urdu: 27 June, 1988).

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: 16 May: 'Kabul Regime Forces' vacate the strategic Zanakhan district. Huge quantities of arms and ammunition and other supplies were left behind.

18 May: Mujahideen carry out an 'intensive' attack on Gird, a district headquarter. A number of Soviet-Kabul troops killed.

19 May: Mujahideen enter Gird which was evacuated by Kabul troops. A quantity of arms and ammunition and other supplies were seized by the Mujahideen.

27 May: A tank was destroyed in an encounter between the Mujahideen and Soviet troops in Ghazni city. Mujahideen fired rockets on Soviet army camp. The Soviets were preparing to evacuate the camp and move out to Kabul.

On June 7, Mujahideen attacked a security post at Qarahbagh with rockets. An armoured vehicle was hit and some Kabuli soldiers killed and wounded.

On June 18, Mujahideen attacked a mobile force at Bund-e-Sarda. A vehicle hit.

On June 23, Mujahideen attacked a military convoy on the Kabul-Qandahar highway near Qarahbagh. A tank and another vehicle were hit and 12 Soviet-Kabul troops killed. Three Mujahideen were also killed and 11 injured. The Mujahideen captured 2 trucks.

VOA: Western diplomatic reports reaching Pakistan say Soviet forces have begun their second major troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Soviet troops are reported having left Ghazni, 135 kilometres south west of Kabul and are beginning to leave Gardez 100 kilometres south of Kabul. The two larger towns were considered vital to the Soviet-backed Kabul government's defence of the country. The Soviet withdrawal leaves Afghan government troops in the area to resist the recent

attacks by anti-government guerillas (News English: 31 May, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Two ring leaders of the extremist groups, Rehmatullah and Hayatullah who indulged in terrorist activities in Khawaja Bekan village of Ghazni province, were wiped out by the Security Forces recently. Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that in the course of the mopping up operations by the security forces which were carried out in the outskirts of Ghazni city a number of extremists were killed and their arms and ammunition were seized by the security forces (6 June, 1988).

Military correspondent of the Bakhtar news agency reported from Ghazni province that the units of the armed forces have wiped out a group of 20 extremists in Anddoh (ph) district. The report said the army units arrested its ring leader, Mohammad Zai. The report added that the armed forces have also captured an ammunition depot (16 June, 1988).

Radio Moscow: Reports from Afghanistan say the Afghan security forces foiled a plot of the terrorist elements in Inder Ulaswali of Ghazni province with the cooperation of the local people. During this operation huge quantity of Western-made arms was seized by the security forces (22 June, 1988).

Paktika

Mujahideen sources: On June 1, Kabul regime troops evacuated from Waza Khwa, a district headquarter. Before leaving they set fire to district headquarter buildings. As the regime troops were moving out they were ambushed and 2 helicopters providing protection to them were shot down. A number of tanks were also hit. It was believed that among the dead were 52 regime soldiers and 8 Russians. The Mujahideen lost 11 fighters killed and 5 injured. Earlier, reinforcements were been rushed to Waza Khwa from Kabul both by land route and air. Waza Khwa had been under Mujahideen seize for sometime.

Radio Kabul: Bakhtar news agency has reported that Afghan government military units have crushed counter-revolutionary groups in Waza Khwa district. Considerable quantity of foreign made land mines, heavy machine guns, rocket launchers and hand grenades have been recovered from the counter-revolutionary groups (31 May, 1988).

As a result of the successful operations of the Armed Forces, a group of the extremist elements, which had been indulging in subversive activities in Mata Khan Alaqadari of Paktika province, was wiped out recently. Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that in these operations two extremists were killed and six others injured (30 June, 1988).

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: 14 May: Booby-traps and 'toy bombs' laid by Soviet-Kabul troops before evacuating Zazi cantonment on May 5, have accounted for more than 50 killed, most of them children. The Booby-traps and 'toy bombs' were in some cases shaped as Klashnikov rifles and eggs.

15 May: Clashes are reported from Gardez between Kabul troops and local militias.

24 May: Eight Russian aircraft bombard Mujahideen positions in Bak, east of Khost, injuring 3 Mujahideen.

29 May: Six Mujahideen killed and 17 injured in a clash with Soviet-Kabul troops at Mughal Khel.

31 May: Mujahideen shell Khost Cantonment, igniting fires which could be seen from a long distance.

On June 7, Mujahideen destroyed a Soviet transport plane about to fly back to Kabul after delivering supplies to the besieged Khost Cantonment. The plane was hit with a missile.

On June 12, Khost airbase was attacked by the Mujahideen. One transport aircraft and one helicopter were destroyed.

On June 13, a regiment of "Jandad" was attacked in Matun (Khost). One network of BM-41 was eliminated and its crew killed.

A regime post was attacked in the area of Zini Khel. Thirteen troops were killed and a tanker destroyed.

On June 21, Mujahideen pounded Khost cantonment with rockets and mortars. A Russian aeroplane was hit during these operations. Soviet-Kabul troops retaliated by bombarding Mujahideen positions.

VIRA: Reports from Afghanistan say that the Afghan Muslim Mujahideen have blocked all the roads leading to Khost Uluswali in a bid to besiege the area (News Pushto: 13 June, 1988).

In the bombardment by the Kabul regime aircraft on the Mujahideen positions in Ali Khel and Char Qaria in Paktiya province, 11 persons were killed and 45 others injured.

According to the reports, six persons were killed in a mosque which was demolished in the bombardment.

A number of houses were also destroyed (News Persian: 25 June, 1988).

According to another report from Paktiya province a second military transport plane of the enemy troops was shot down in Khost on June 24. The report said that the plane which was airlifting supplies for the troops stationing there, was subjected to the rockets of the Mujahideen. In this incident seven officers of the enemy troops were killed (29 June, 1988).

BBC: Diplomats say that Soviet troops have almost completed their withdrawal from the two towns of Gardez and Ghazni, in south eastern Afghanistan. At least two Soviet convoys having moved to Kabul at the end of last month, were ambushed by guerillas, they say. Even before they had left Ghazni guerillas moved into the town's suburbs over-running two security posts (Newsreel English: 6 June, 1988).

VOA: Official Kabul radio has reported that Afghan resistance forces have shelled areas upto eastern town of Khost due to which 7 people were killed and 9 were injured. The radio did not disclose when the attack was made (News Urdu: 5 June, 1988).

According to Soviet TV Soviet troops have completed their pull-out from Paktiya province (News Urdu: 15 June, 1988).

An Afghan source in Kabul says that the Mujahideen in Paktiya province shot down an army transport plane trying to land at the Khost airport on the night of June 16th or so. The source says that the plane was full of Afghan soldiers but the pilots were Russian. All of them were killed. The Khost garrison is continuously under the siege of the Mujahideen. For the past some time supplies are being made by planes during the night. But after the destruction of this plane pilots have started avoiding flying to Khost even during night.

New reports that could not be independently confirmed gave specific details on the downing of a second communist transport plane trying to land on June 21st at the garrison city of Khost. The first was confirmed on June 16th. Agency Afghan Press gives the Pilot's name on the second plane and says 7 Afghan government military officers were also killed (Newline English: 29 June, 1988).

Radio Beijing: Resistance forces in Afghanistan claim that they have shot down a Kabul army transport plane in Eastern Paktiya province, killing three hundred and forty-five soldiers on board (News English: 27 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: According to another report, fourteen counter-revolutionaries were killed and a large quantity of weapons seized by the security forces in Gardez area (19 June, 1988).

Another report says that a caravan of terrorists carrying arms and ammunition was recently wiped out by the vigilant border security force in Khost Ulaswali of Paktiya province. Eight terrorists were killed (20 June, 1988).

Kabul Times: Khost Army Units Defend Borders: "Setting up security posts on strategic points, the personnel of the border units have blocked the route of the enemy. And heavy losses were inflicted on the extremist elements when they assaulted our unit six times in the last Afghan year (ended March 19, 1988)", said brigadier Mirbacha,

political head of the border unit of Khost division.

"Firing heavy guns from across the border, the enemy, who does not have the capability of direct fighting, wants to create panic among the people. They had resorted several times to this bestial action and as a result innocent children and women were killed in the division", he continued.

"This action intensified the wrath and indignation of the people. By setting up a voluntary tribal battalion they defended their life and residential areas along with the armed forces. Therefore we can confidently say that the armed forces of this division can defend independently the people and borders of the country", he added (BIA: 1 June, 1988).

TASS: Over the past twenty four hours, a booby trap disguised as a toy exploded in Khost district. Two children were killed and four wounded (TASS: 18 June, 1988).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: 16 May: Mujahideen attack security post at Gulahi. Four militiamen killed.

21 May: Mujahideen attack Kabul regime garrison at Agam-Pacher. Fifteen militiamen killed. A tank destroyed.

24 May: Soviet-Kabul forces attacks Mujahideen positions in Riidat. The invaders were thrown back with two tanks destroyed.

On June 2, an armoured car belonging to a mobile Soviet-Kabul force was hit and destroyed by a rocket in Shinwar area.

On June 11, Mujahideen attacked a security post at Surkh Rud.

On June 12, Mujahideen attacked an army camp at Hisarak. Mujahideen also attacked security post of Mahipar Dam. A number of Kabul army soldiers and militiamen were killed, and others captured.

On June 23, the Mujahideen blocked the Kabul-Jalalabad highway between Sarobi and Spin Thana by detonating a bridge. In a fierce battle for the bridge the Soviet-Kabul forces lost a number of soldiers. A Mujahid was also killed and three others injured.

Radio Tehran: Another 700 Soviet troops have been deployed in Jalalabad to counter the liberation operations of the Mujahideen (News Persian: 5 June, 1988).

Powerful bomb blasts have jolted Kabul and Jalalabad towns of Afghanistan.

According to reports from Afghanistan, more than eleven Soviet-Kabul troops were either killed or injured in the blasts (News Urdu: 5 June, 1988).

In an attack on the positions of the Kabul troops in the suburbs

of Jalalabad, the Afghan Mujahideen destroyed an armoured personnel carrier and killed 10 Kabul troops (News Persian: 8 June, 1988).

VOA: In Moscow, the Soviet Television has reported that the Soviet troops have completed their pullout process from three Afghan provinces close to the Pakistan border.

According to the report the last and remaining Soviet contingent deployed in the Logar, Ningarhar and Pakiya provinces crossed over the Soviet border yesterday, Tuesday (News Urdu: 15 June, 1988).

News reports say the Mujahideen have also taken a 35 kilometres stretch of road between Kabul and Jalalabad to the east, thus doubling the immediate pressures on the Capital virtually over night (Radio Report English: 27 June, 1988).

VOG: Eighteen people have been killed in a mine explosion on the highway to Jalalabad city of Afghanistan. Radio Kabul has held Afghan Mujahideen responsible for the attack (News Urdu: 29 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: According to another report, armed forces raided an ammunition depot of counter-revolutionary groups in Surkhrud area of Ningarhar province and took control of the depot. During the operation, several counter-revolutionaries were killed (News Urdu: 31 June, 1988).

Another seven families of our compatriots consisting of 42 people returned to Kabul and Ningarhar provinces yesterday. They were sent to their native villages after being provided with necessary relief goods (News Pushto: 21 June, 1988).

The counter-revolutionary terrorists have committed another crime and martyred our eighteen innocent countrymen.

The Defence Correspondent of Bakhtar news agency reports from Ningarhar province that 18 persons, including women and children were martyred when a passenger bus hit a mine planted by the terrorists on Torkham-Jalalabad road (26 June, 1988).

Two counter-revolutionary extremist groups which had disrupted peaceful life of the people of Surkhrud Woleswali of Ningarhar province were wiped out by the armed forces yesterday.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency reports that in the armed forces operation 36 extremists were killed and different kinds of weapons including twenty ground-to-ground missiles were destroyed.

The heroic armed forces in the course of their successful operations also wiped out another four member extremist group in Haske Mina area of Ningarhar province (News Pushto: 29 June, 1988).

Yet another report from Ningarhar province says that in military operations of the armed forces, nine extremists were killed and five others injured in Momandara Woleswali recently (News Pushto: 30 June, 1988).

Radio Moscow: In Afghanistan, extremist armed groups have fired rockets on a number of towns and villages. According to the Afghan News Agency, as a result of the rocket attacks ten civilians have been killed and 20 others injured in the provinces of Ningarhar, Kunar and Badghis. The agency says Pakistan has been arming Afghan terrorists in violation of the Geneva agreement (15 June, 1988).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: 27 May: Mujahideen attack a mobile force near Dalgam town. Mujahideen shell Soviet-Kabul security posts in Sra Taaq, Asmar district.

28 May: Mujahideen fire rockets on military installations in Asadabad (Chaga Sarai) and Sarkan. Several Kabul troops killed and army barracks damaged.

On June 2, Mujahideen attacked security posts at Sheigal. Three Kabul soldiers were killed and the building severely damaged.

On June 11, Mujahideen attacked security post at Narang, south of Asadabad.

On June 21, Mujahideen attacked a mobile force on Jalalabad-Kunar road near the sub-divisional town of Kuz Kunar.

Radio Tehran: In operations in Kunar, Logar, Paktiya and Badakhshan provinces Mujahideen killed or wounded 100 communist troops and destroyed some tanks.

On the other hand, three Brigades of Afghan army have been deployed in the Afghan-Pakistan border area which has been vacated by the Soviet troops (News Urdu: 7 June, 1988).

In course of their successful operations in Moazzam and Sarabuddin areas of Kunar province, on 3rd of this month, the Afghan Muslim Mujahideen destroyed an enemy tank, put an arsenal of the communist troops on fire and shot down a helicopter killing all its crew members (News Pushto: 29 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Several caravans carrying arms and ammunition for the terrorists have recently been wiped out by the security forces in Kunar (News: 18 June, 1988).

Under a Presidential decree, sixty-three political prisoners of Kunar province have been released from jail recently.

Military correspondent of the Bakhtar news agency has reported that at a meeting on this occasion, two of the released prisoners, on behalf of others assured the government of their full support in the implementation of the national reconciliation policy (26 June, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that the criminal extremist elements by firing ground-to-ground missiles at

the residential areas of Noor Gul Alaqadari of Kunar province, martyred six of our innocent compatriots and injured four others. Similarly the missile attack damaged several houses and caused considerable material loss to the people of the area (News Pushto: 30 June, 1988).

Kabul Times: Residential areas of Asmar and Sarkanai districts and Narang sub-district of Kunar province were subjected to surface-to-surface rocket attacks by the extremist elements on May 25.

One compatriot was killed and 3 others severely injured. As a result of the attack several houses were destroyed (KNT: 28 June, 1988).

One mosque, volumes of the Holy Quran and one school were set on fire when the extremists fired surface-to-surface rockets on the residential areas in Shingil valley of Kunar province (KNT: 1 June, 88).

Badakhshan

Mujahideen sources: On June 14, Mujahideen attacked a security post near Faizabad, the headquarters of Badakhshan province. A barrack hit by rocket launchers caught fire. Some Kabul army soldiers were believed to have been killed.

On May 15, regime posts were attacked by the Mujahideen in Yaftal Payan areas. Two soldiers were killed and ten captured.

VIRA: Another report from Faizabad says that a military convoy of the Soviet-Kabul troops which was on its way to Jain Woleswali from Faizabad city hit a mine field laid by the Mujahideen, as a result of which two tanks and one military vehicle were destroyed (News Pushto: 29 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In another operation the Afghan Mujahideen captured a military strong point in the north of Afghanistan in Badakhshan.

In the operation 30 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and 100 others were captured by the Afghan Mujahideen (News Persian: 6 June, 1988).

BBC: Mujahideen claim to have captured Tayes (ph) garrison in Badakhshan province, last month. Thirty Afghan troops were killed and 100 captured during the operation.

Meanwhile, western diplomats say that Soviets have used a new bomb in Afghanistan. Its blast causes great havoc and it has been used at a number of places (BBC: Newsreel English: 7 June, 1988).

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: A group of Mujahideen was ambushed between Darqad and Dasht Qala. On May 20, two Mujahideen were killed and three injured.

Between May 26 and June 3, Mujahideen attacked security posts

in the district of Khwaja Ghar. Ten posts and 25 troops were captured, and 70 weapons seized. Five Mujahideen were injured in the attacks.

On June 4, the Mujahideen attacked two security posts in Khwaja Ghar. Eight enemy troops were killed and 22 captured. Three Mujahideen were also killed.

BBC: In north-eastern Afghanistan the commander of the Afghan guerillas Ahmad Shah Masood who belongs to the Jamiat-i-Islamic has set up a supervisory council. It held an eight day conference. The conference reviewed the strategy in the light of the Soviet troops pull out from Afghanistan. George Arney reports from Islamabad.

This fifth conference of the Supervisory Council was attended by (guerilla) commanders of ten provinces of Afghanistan. The conference was held in Takhar province in the first fortnight of June. The discussion held in the conference indicates that the council is considering what it should do to strengthen its control on northern Afghanistan and for making preparations for the new phase of war. According to a spokesman figures have been collected about the activities and capabilities of the members of the Jamiat in north-eastern Afghanistan in order to fully organize the party. The council has decided to divide the areas under its control into four administrative units. They are upto Faryab in the west and upto Badakhshan in the east. The administration of each of the units will be in the hands of one commander. The conference also intends to constitute a regular guerilla force, which will be able to attack big army garrisons and towns.

Meanwhile, a new army has been recruited and it is being trained. The conference has also decided to intensify its military activities and to increase contact and cooperation with the commanders of other parties. The conference considered ways and means to increase administrative control on the north-eastern area and establish cooperation on strong basis with the local population. High courts will be opened in all the four units to settle major disputes. Besides, a council consisting of Ulema and religious leaders will be set up which will serve as liaison between the military command and the Shariat. The council has also decided to expand its jurisdiction to the fields of public health, education, and economic rehabilitation. A press release issued after the conference makes an appeal to get united with the Afghan Resistance Movement irrespective of political, ethnic, and other differences. It emphasises that war will continue till the establishment of an Islamic government in Kabul. The announcement denounces all the proposals for a jirga or coalition government which are only aimed at prolonging the present Kabul regime (Sairbeen Urdu: 28 June, 1988).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: On May 31, Mujahideen attacked area military headquarters in Imam Sahib township. Nine Kabuli soldiers were killed. Mujahideen also captured the security post of Farghan. On June 15, eight Kabul regime soldiers were killed and 19 captured during an attack on a military camp near Imam Sahib.

An Afghan Press despatch said: After the Geneva Accords the Soviet authorities have constructed another bridge on Amu river at Kalkh Tapa in Kunduz province.

The new bridge was constructed on heavy boats. The width of Amu river at Kalkh Tapa is narrow and from this place the important city of Tajikistan Doshambe and the border town of Tirmiz can be connected. The Soviet authorities are also constructing a road from Kholm towards Bander Sher Khan. The road is being constructed along Amu river.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have inflicted heavy casualties on the communist troops in Kunduz province (News Pushto 24 June, 1988).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: On May 30, Mujahideen attacked a regime force on the Kabul-Mazar highway in the district of Pul-e-Khumri. Two tanks and two vehicles were destroyed and their occupants killed.

On June 1, the Mujahideen attacked militia positions in the village of Aka Khel. As a result, 13 militiamen were killed and 30 captured. Thirty-seven weapons were seized. The village is now controlled by the resistance.

On June 2, the Mujahideen attacked a security post inside Baghlan city. Two "Soviet troops" were killed.

On the same day a group of urban guerillas intercepted a convoy carrying military supplies towards Baghlan Cantonment. A tank and an army vehicle of the convoy were destroyed by rocket launchers during the swift attack. Eight Soviet troops were killed and injured. The Mujahideen captured an army vehicle and a wireless set besides a sizeable quantity of arms.

On June 19, the Mujahideen raided a security post near Khinjar Town on Salang Highway. The commander of the security post was killed and 12 Kabul troops captured. The same day a tank was destroyed at Takhta-e-Sung.

Another report said that 45 Afghan troops and a Soviet soldier joined the ranks of Mujahideen during the third week of June.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen launched attacks on the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in the suburbs of Baghlan city during the last week as a result of which the security belt of these forces was broken through and 32 posts of the Soviet-Kabul troops were captured by the Afghan Mujahideen (News Persian: 5 June, 1988).

In another operation in Baghlan province the Mujahideen attacked a caravan of the communist troops and killed or wounded 70 troops (6 June, 1988).

In an attack on the Pul-e-Khumri jail in Baghlan province, the Mujahideen freed scores of political prisoners (21 June, 1988).

Samangan

VIRA: Mujahideen sources reported that in their activities in Jozjan and Samangan provinces recently, the Mujahideen have demolished two Soviet military bases (News Persian: 27 June, 1988).

VOA: There are reliable reports of heavy fighting now going on in Aibak, capital of Samangan province (29 June, 1988).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: On May 20, the Mujahideen shelled the district headquarters in Chimtal with mortars. As a result, 22 regime troops were killed. Two Mujahideen also killed.

On May 24, the Mujahideen ambushed regime troops near the road of Meri Bagh, killing seven troops and destroying one vehicle.

On May 26, regime troops preparing to search houses in the area of Shahrawan were attacked by the Mujahideen. Four soldiers were killed, seven injured, and two captured. One tank and one vehicle were destroyed.

On June 2, the Mujahideen captured Shadian, a township about 10 kms south of Mazar-e-Sharif, thus stiffening the blockade of the provincial capital.

On June 7, the Mujahideen attacked a security post on the outer perimeters of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Four Kabul soldiers were killed and two taken prisoner.

Radio Tehran: During a large scale operation against communist forces in Balkh province Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have captured an important area of this province. Meanwhile, Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have besieged the important city of Mazar-e-Sharif situated near the Soviet-Kabul border (News Urdu: 14 June, 1988).

VOA: Unconfirmed reports say Mujahideen are conducting night raids inside Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh's provincial capital (29 June, 1988).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: On June 4, the Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime posts near Shibirghan, headquarters of Jozjan province. One of the posts was captured.

Radio Tehran: In their operation the Afghan Mujahideen have captured a number of military strong points of Afghan troops in Jozjan province (News Persian: 11 June, 1988).

Sar-e-Pul

Mujahideen sources: On June 1, the Mujahideen attacked security posts in Sar-e-Pul province over a wide area. Earlier reports said they had knocked out a tank and a jeep while investing a built up area.

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: On May 15, the Mujahideen captured some oil and gas installations in Aspalan area.

On June 5, Russian and regime troops of 18th and 20th divisions, and militia units launched a joint operation against the Mujahideen around Maimana.

Russian aircraft which flew from Tashkent and Tirmiz in the Soviet Union bombarded and destroyed 20 villages around Maimana. Some 600 families were forced to seek shelter in other areas.

On June 7, the Mujahideen shot down a helicopter while it was preparing to land at Maimana airbase. The Mujahideen also attacked a mobile force near Daulatabad. Three "Soviet troops" were killed.

VIRA: Communist troops recently attacked the position of the Muslim Mujahideen in Kaiser Wolesswali of Faryab. The Mujahideen resisted the attack and killed five government troops (2 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In a series of operations, the Afghan Mujahideen have destroyed five tanks and military vehicles of the communist troops besides inflicting heavy casualties on them at Maimana in Faryab province (3 May, 1988).

IRNA: Afghan Muslim Revolutionaries killed and wounded over 200 Soviet-Afghan troops and shot down two planes in eastern and south-eastern parts of Maimana, Faryab province in June.

In their operations, the Afghan Mujahideen also captured 30 communists and destroyed some eight tanks and five military trucks.

Following the occupation forces defeat in the Faryab province their warplanes flying from Tashkent of the Soviet Union bombed residential areas near Maimana city, martyring and wounding over 75 civilian and making hundreds of others homeless (17 June, 1988).

Badghis

Mujahideen sources: On June 7, the Mujahideen attacked the border town of Bala Murghab where two tanks were destroyed. A Mujahid was killed and three others were injured. The Mujahideen captured three regime troopers.

Radio Tehran: In another operation the Afghan Mujahideen killed a number of Soviet-Afghan troops and destroyed their five tanks during an offensive on Ghormach district in Badghis province (News Pushto: 7 June, 1988).

Herat

Mujahideen sources: 24 May: Mujahideen attack Karakh, killing 12 Soviet-Kabul troops and destroying 2 tanks. Soviet-made aircraft came to the aid of their troops. Three civilians were killed in Soviet bombardment.

On June 9, the Mujahideen attacked Shin Dand airbase. A tank was destroyed. On the same day in an ambush laid near the Iranian border town of Islam Qila the Mujahideen destroyed a military vehicle. Some arms were also captured.

On June 10, the Mujahideen liberated Chowrian, a sub-divisional headquarter, after about 6 months of siege. The final assault was mounted on June 9. The military garrison surrendered to Mujahideen yielding to them large quantities of supplies. Chowrian lies between Herat and Islam Qila.

On June 12, the Mujahideen fired rockets on the Fourth Armoured Division of the Kabul army. On the same day they also attacked some security posts protecting the Shind Dand Airbase. Twelve regime soldiers were taken prisoner.

On June 17, Mujahideen attacked a security post in the vicinity of the city of Chisht Sharif. The building was demolished.

VIRA: Mujahideen killed 40 enemy troops and captured 15 when they attacked a post in Shind Dand area. The post was destroyed and a huge quantity of arms seized (28 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: According to another report, the Afghan Mujahideen have strengthened their position in liberated areas in the suburbs of Herat city (News Persian: 1 June, 1988).

The report says that in another attack on the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Herat province, the Mujahideen killed 12 enemy troops and destroyed a Soviet tank (News Persian: 11 June, 1988).

According to reports from Afghanistan, the Afghan Mujahideen continued their attacks on joint Soviet-Kabul troops in the west of Herat city. Twenty communist troops were either killed or injured in

these attacks while a large quantity of arms was also seized by the Mujahideen.

Similarly, the Mujahideen also killed 23 communist troops and captured fourteen others, in course of their successful operations in the south-eastern Zabul province. A huge quantity of arms was also seized by the freedom fighters (News Persian: 22 June, 1988).

BBC: According to Afghan government officials Soviet troops have also started pulling out of Herat and Qandahar but western diplomats say that the departure of some Soviet units from Qandahar may have been delayed because of concern about the city's viability to guerilla attacks. Diplomats say that Afghan government troops have pulled back from the two defence posts surrounding Qandahar and are constructing new defensive positions on the edge of the city in the south (Newsreel English: 7 June, 1988).

Farah

Radio Tehran: The Afghan government troops vacated Faizabad border post in south-western Farah province last weekend to retreat to strategically safer areas.

In the meantime the Afghan Mujahideen received indications that these troops would be deployed at the Soviet airbase at Shin Dand (News Urdu: 5 June, 1988).

In several other operations in Ningarhar, Herat and Surkhakan areas of Farah province, the Mujahideen have succeeded in getting control of ten enemy strong points and destroying seven of their tanks and vehicles (News Pushto: 29 June, 1988).

VOA: Mujahideen commanders report that their rocket attacks on three military installations in Farah city caused heavy losses. Here is Shaukat Kamal with details of the despatch sent by VOA correspondent, John Shultz from Islamabad:

Mujahideen commanders who participated in the operation reported about the losses caused by their rocket attacks on June 6 on phone from Iran. The attacks were carried out on headquarters of Afghan armed forces, a military telecommunication centre and the main security post.

Sources in Quetta say that four tanks and ten trucks were destroyed due to the attack on army headquarters. Fifteen troops deserting the Afghan forces told Mujahideen that thirty troops were killed and sixty-three others wounded by the rockets while a number of buildings of the base were also damaged. These reports, however, could not be confirmed from independent sources.

The commander also said that all telephone lines were des-

troysed in the rocket attack on the telecommunication centre. Fifteen Afghan militiamen were killed and five wounded in the attack on the main security post, they added (Radio Report Urdu: 15 June, 1988).

Bamiyan

Nil report from all sources

Ghor

Mujahideen sources: 21 May: Heavy fighting is taking place between the Mujahideen and Kabul regime military units in Sarchashma area of Shahrak district. A Russian-made bomber has been shot down. Scores of regime soldiers and some Mujahideen have also been killed. The Mujahideen have captured some posts in the area.

On June 12, the Mujahideen attacked a KHAD office in Shahrak town, west of Chagcharan, the provincial capital. The office building was badly damaged and 5 officials killed.

On June 15, the Mujahideen captured a military camp at Bakali near Chagcharan. The arms and ammunition dump yielded them more than 200 Klashnikov rifles, 4 machine guns and large quantities of food.

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen launched an attack on the Soviet-Kabul troops in Ghor province last week as a result of which a security post was captured.

The report says that in the attack the Commander of the post was killed. A huge quantity of arms was also seized by the Afghan Mujahideen (News Persian: 25 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have inflicted heavy casualties in Ghor province (News Pushto: 24 June, 1988).

Uruzgan

Nil report from all sources.

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: 27 May: Soviet-Kabul forces attack Mujahideen 'centre' at a communications junction near Kabul leading to Paghman. The attack was repulsed with the loss of a tank and another vehicle to invaders.

On June 2, Kabul regime troops attacked villages of Bala Karez and Marez Mir near Kabul. Fourteen invading troops were killed against 4 Mujahideen. Another 18 Mujahideen were injured.

On June 4 and 5, Mujahideen attacked police and security establishments in the "northern part" of Kabul. Three security posts and a

KHAD office were destroyed.

On June 10, Mujahideen fired rockets on the military airport in Kabul hitting a hanger.

On June 12, Mujahideen attacked security posts in Saroobi town, killing 12 soldiers and destroying a tank.

On June 18, a tank was destroyed during a clash near Saroobi town, when the Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy heading towards Jalalabad.

On June 19, Mujahideen killed 30 Afghan soldiers in Shakardar district and captured 20 others.

On June 21, a helicopter was hit with a missile in Khairkhana area.

On June 23, a big explosion took place inside the Kabul airfield. As a result an ammunition dump was destroyed.

On June 24, Mujahideen conducted a fierce attack on Kabul Airport. Seven aircraft were destroyed.

On June 24 and 25, Mujahideen operations on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway blocked traffic. About 500 Mujahideen took part in the operation.

VIRA: The Mujahideen attacked the Kabul airport on Saturday with their rockets. The reports say that in the operation the Mujahideen caused heavy losses to the Kabul airport and also killed or injured a number of Kabul troops (27 June, 1988).

Large human and material losses have been inflicted on the Kabul regime by the Mujahideen during several successful operations in various parts of Kabul.

The report says that several enemy troops including a Colonel of the Kabul regime forces were killed when the Mujahideen blew up a government office in Mohabat Khan area. Similarly a post of the Kabul regime troops was also blown up. Several communist troops were killed by the Mujahideen on 12th of June (28 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In Kabul province the Muslim freedom fighters killed twelve enemy troops and destroyed one of their tanks, when they attacked a military garrison (News Urdu: 23 June, 1988).

BBC: A Kabul court has awarded capital punishment to two Afghan rebels. Both of them were found guilty of murder, dacoities and threatening the country's integrity.

Soviet news agency, TASS has reported that the rebels were arrested while roaming about near Kabul in military uniform. They were armed, and explosives were also recovered from their residences. TASS has also reported that they had been harassing local population for long (News Urdu: 2 June, 1988).

Fierce fightings have also been reported from Shamali area in north

of Kabul. Western diplomats have confirmed the Mujahideen claim that Soviet and Afghan troops have abandoned the Panjsher valley. Mujahideen claim to have captured Teyes (ph) garrison in Badakhshan province, last month. Thirty Afghan troops were killed and 100 captured during the operation.

Meanwhile, western diplomats say that Soviets have used a new bomb in Afghanistan. Its blast causes great havoc and it has been used at a number of places (Newsreel English: 17 June, 1988).

Reports have been coming for the past two days about fire accident at the Kabul airport in Afghanistan. But the causes of this fire could not be clear. However, BBC correspondent Gordon Martin who has arrived in Delhi spending two months in Afghanistan tells us some details of this incident:

This was the greatest air loss for the Soviet Union since the induction of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan eight years ago. The diplomatic sources whom Martin talked in Kabul say that five Sukui-25 jet fighter planes were destroyed at the airport and three suffered heavy damage. It may be recalled that this accident took place as a result of rocket attack by Afghan guerillas, who are now in possession of missiles capable of hitting targets thirty kilometres away. Technically these planes are very advanced ones and all of them were flown by the Soviet pilots. These planes are guarding the routes through which Soviet troops are returning home. Sukui-25 planes were also flying from the Kabul airport and bombarding the positions of the guerillas. According to secret sources they were using new type of petrol bombs which were causing heavy loss of life. When attack was carried out against Khost it was believed that twelve Sukui planes were present at the airport. There is always a crowd of helicopter gunships and other military planes at the Kabul airport. If this destruction has actually been caused as a result of the rocket attacks by the guerillas, then it should be considered an extraordinarily successful attack by the guerillas. It is also indicative of the fact what type of growing difficulties the Soviet Union is facing in the pull out of its troops. The planes are very much unsafe at the Kabul airport. These planes go on their mission during the night, because the missiles possessed by guerillas are not effective during the night. The Afghan guerillas have been very much successful in their attacks on the Soviet transport planes, because their speed is very slow and they flies at a very low level. It could, therefore, easily be made target. But when Sukui-25 once flies it is out of the reach of the guerillas (27 June, 1988).

VOA: Western diplomats in Islamabad report communist perimeter defences around the Afghan capital city have collapsed from three rings to two recently and Mujahideen units are working as close as 15 to 20 kilometres from Kabul. From Islamabad VOA's John Shultz reports on that and on military action elsewhere in Afghanistan:

While resupply of Afghanistan by Soviet air transport planes continues as a daily and nightly event in Kabul, pressures are mounting on the city's defence perimeter. Western diplomats in Islamabad quote knowledgeable sources as saying the ring defence perimeter around Kabul has in the process collapsed in consolidation to two rings since mid May. Mujahideen are now reported operating freely about 20 kilometres east and west of the capital and only 15 kilometres from the centre of the city in the south. North of the city, Mujahideen reportedly control a 30 kilometre area from Paghman to Bagram airbase. Diplomatic experts say in the city of Qandahar communist security forces followed similar strategy, collapsing the third defence ring back to the second ring then pulling back to one ring at the edge of the city. Mujahideen sources report recently that of the estimated 10,000 Soviet troops in Qandahar in early May only about 2,000 remain, mostly around the airport. The scheduled nine months Soviet pull out from Afghanistan is well underway in the south and east of the country. While Qandahar has been under intense pressure for many months and scene of intense fighting, new pressures coming for the first time are reported in recent days on several other provincial capitals. Mujahideen took and temporarily held Kalat in Zabul province and more recently Maidan, the capital of Wardak province (Newsline English: 29 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: In accordance with the Presidential decree of amnesty, another twenty-five prisoners were released from the Pul-e-Charkhi central jail in Kabul today (News Pushto: 15 June, 1988).

The Afghan Customs authorities have seized sixteen bags of explosives near Arghandai check post. These explosives were being smuggled to Kabul.

Bakhtar news agency reports that the smugglers have been arrested (News Pushto: 16 June, 1988).

According to Bakhtar news agency an explosion occurred in Shahzada market in Kabul yesterday as a result of which two persons were seriously injured and some shops were damaged. The report said that the person carrying the bomb was killed in the explosion (News Urdu: 24 June, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that

the armed extremists used heavy arms in some areas of Kabul city this morning. As a result of this brutal act of the extremists two children were killed and one other was injured. According to the report, a number of houses in Kabul city were also damaged (24 June, 1988).

Fifty-five more prisoners were released from the Pul-e-Charkhi central jail, in Kabul under Presidential amnesty decree today. Sixty-five prisoners were released from the same jail yesterday (28 June, 88).

Radio Moscow: The counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan are firing missiles on Kabul and its surrounding areas.

According to the daily IZVESTIA these missiles exploded in civilian areas and as a result a number of children and women were killed and seriously injured. The paper said that only the counter-revolutionaries could not be held responsible for their death, but those elements were also responsible who provide them weapons. The daily writes that Washington and Islamabad officials are only making verbal statements for the settlement of the Afghan conflict but in fact, the paper points out, their military and financial assistance is continuing to the opposition groups and it can never help bring peace in Afghanistan (News Pushto: 3 June, 1988).

Residential areas of the Afghan capital have been subjected to a missile attack on Wednesday night and another seven people including women and children became victim to Afghan extremists. Thirteen people more were wounded. Several residential homes in Kabul were destroyed.

Meanwhile, tension persists in the southern Afghan province of Qandahar. A group of terrorists was arrested in the province's administrative centre. The Afghan news agency Bakhtar notes that in violation of the Geneva Accords Pakistan has been arming Afghan Opposition and helping terrorists make their way into Afghanistan (16 June, 1988).

Meanwhile, according to the Bakhtar agency, nearly all regions in Kabul province have been declared peace zones. Eighteen hundred armed opposition members have laid down arms and expressed readiness to take part in the process of national reconciliation (Focus, English: 23 June, 1988).

Afghan extremists are carrying out armed provocations against peaceful citizens of Afghanistan.

They fired rockets at a residential area of Kabul yesterday in which a house was destroyed and a woman wounded. A bomb exploded in the hands of an extremist in a Kabul bazar yesterday. On the same day, the extremists fired rockets at a hydel power house in Kabul province and killed three persons. Besides injuries to two persons, two power lines were also damaged in the attack (24 June, 1988).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: 20-30 May: Mujahideen eliminate about 2 security posts in the jurisdiction of 10 villages in Bagram district. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and other supplies was taken.

On June 10, a number of militiamen defect to Mujahideen in Liwan, a side valley between Jabal Saraj and Salang Tunnel.

On June 16, Soviet-Kabul troops attack Mujahideen in Liwan. Two Russians and a Kabul regime soldier were killed.

On June 20, Mujahideen ambush a "convoy of Police" killing four and capturing 14 kalashnikov rifles and a machinegun. Four vehicles were also destroyed. On the same day a convoy of oil tankers was attacked on the "northern highway". Ten tankers were hit and a large quantity of fuel was destroyed.

VIRA: In fierce fighting between the Mujahideen and the Kabul troops, the Mujahideen have captured 11 security posts of the Kabul regime in Gulbahar area in Parwan province. A large number of the Kabul troops were killed and many others injured while a huge quantity of arms was seized by the Mujahideen (News Persian: 19 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen have liberated Bagram area in Parwan province.

According to a report of the Islamic Republic News Agency, in the liberation operation which took place last week, more than 50 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed while 200 pieces of arms were seized by the Afghan Mujahideen (News Persian: 5 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Similarly, another group, which was indulged in criminal activities in Hotyan village of Parwan province was wiped out by the security forces (7 June, 1988).

Another 18 families of our compatriots, consisting of 110 people have returned to the country in Ningarhar and Parwan provinces under the policy of national reconciliation and the Geneva Agreement (28 June, 1988).

Kapisa

Mujahideen sources: 15 May: Mujahideen attacked the 64th Garrison in the area of Tanbana. Sixty soldiers, along with four Russian advisers, were killed and 42 others surrendered during the attack. The Mujahideen destroyed two tanks and captured four heavy guns, one mortar and 51 light weapons. One Mujahid was killed and two were injured.

16 May: In retaliation, area was bombarded by Russian aircraft. The bombardment killed two Mujahideen and wounded 12 others.

The Mujahideen captured five regime posts in the area of Shebah.

One mortar, 22 light weapons and four radio communication sets were taken.

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen captured six weapons in Paranda. Ten soldiers surrendered.

On June 12, the Soviet-Kabul forces launched a major counter-attack on Mujahideen in Kapisa province. Spearheaded by armoured units they tried to break the siege of Gulbahar town, but were thrown back after a full day's fighting. A large number of the invaders were killed. Fifteen Mujahideen also lost their lives.

On June 23, the Mujahideen captured a Kabul regime garrison in Paymazar area of Gulbahar at the mouth of Panjsher valley.

The attack was launched at one O'clock in the morning and the garrison was captured within one hour.

Forty-two enemy soldiers were captured, eight killed and five others managed to escape.

The Mujahideen captured the items:

- * Two 82mm mortars.
- * One ZPU anti-aircraft gun.
- * One PK machine gun.
- * Five RPG-7 rocket launchers.
- * Fifty-five kalashnikov rifles.
- * One thousand mortar shells.
- * Two R-105 wireless sets.
- * Seventy thousand rounds of ammunition and ten tons of food-stuff.

One Mujahid was injured in the operation.

VIRA: As a result of the Mujahideen activities, the Panjsher valley has been cleared off the Soviet troops.

Reports say that the Mujahideen have liberated another base of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Kapisa province. According to the reports, the Soviet-Kabul troops evacuated the base after suffering heavy losses in men and material at the hands of the Afghan Mujahideen (News Persian: 1 June, 1988).

BBC: Afghan guerilla sources in Peshawar say that all Soviet and Afghan government troops have left the strategically important Panjsher valley. The valley lies to the north east of Kabul and it had been thought that it would remain in Soviet hands until the withdrawal from Afghanistan was almost complete. George Arney is again on the line from Islamabad:

According to the Jamiat-e-Islami, the main guerilla party operating in the Panjsher, two major bases near the mouth of the valley were evacuated last Thursday. About ten thousand Soviet

and Afghan troops were believed to be stationed there. A spokesman for the party claimed that the whole valley is now in guerilla hands. He said that the departing troops had planted mines before leaving, which had killed a number of civilians. If the report is correct, it is an unexpected development. The guerillas captured a small Afghan army garrison further up the valley about two weeks ago. That prompted the evacuation of two more garrisons a few days later. But it was generally thought that Soviet troops would continue to guard the mouth of the Panjsher until the end of the withdrawal from Afghanistan. The valley opens on to the Salang highway, Kabul's only direct land route to the Soviet border. The evacuation of the last two bases in Panjsher will make it much easier for the guerillas to attack the highway unless the Soviet authorities have succeeded in arranging a truce with the valley's best known commander Ahmed Shah Masood (Newsreel English, 30 June, 1988).

VOA: Afghan resistance commanders have said that the Soviet and Afghan government troops have evacuated the Panjsher valley in northern Afghanistan leaving it under rebels control.

According to reports reaching Pakistan, the Mujahideen leaders say that two major military bases of Rokha and Anava were evacuated on May 26th. However, before withdrawing, the Soviet forces laid numerous mines all around the bases. Hence, when the refugees tried to return to the valley, several mines exploded killing and wounding a number of civilians.

The Mujahideen commanders further say that in an operation last week, the guerillas captured an Afghan army post at Ahangara along the strategic Salang highway, leading towards the Soviet border (News Urdu: 30 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Extremists have mounted an attack with heavy weapons and missiles against residential areas in Gulbahar district, Kapisa province thereby committing another crime. According to a Bakhtar military correspondent, as a result of launching these missiles 13 of our compatriots were martyred, 10 others were wounded and a mosque was destroyed (8 June, 1988).

Radio Moscow: The Afghan army during its operation against extremist bands in Kapisa province wiped out scores of terrorists and captured some weapons (13 June, 1988).

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: During the second week of June, the Mujahideen attacked supporters of Sarwar Nuristani a regime supporter in

Nuristan. Some 160 militiamen surrendered with two mortars and seven light weapons.

Logar

Mujahideen sources: 5 May: A helicopter was shot down by the Mujahideen in the area of Adaki Kotal.

28 May: Mujahideen attacked a unit of the 693rd Battalion, killing three soldiers.

On June 3, the Mujahideen attacked a KHAD (state secret police) office in Logar. Seven KHAD agents were captured by the Mujahideen.

On June 6, a military convoy was intercepted near Mohammad Agha town. It was proceeding towards Kabul from Gardez. Two tanks and an armament vehicle were destroyed. Soviet planes bombarded the area killing and injuring several civilians.

VOA: According to Soviet TV, Soviet troops have completed pull out from Logar (News Urdu: 15 June, 1988).

Radio Kabul: BIA reports that in continuation of the process of activities of the Armed Forces of the country, a large depot of anti-vehicle mines, belonging to extremist groups were seized were in areas of the Logar province. The report adds that these mines were brought to Dusht Kush area of Logar province.

The report goes on to say that from this depot, which was exposed and seized due to the great cooperation of the people of the area, 71 anti-vehicles mines and a large amount of ammunition were captured by the security forces (3 June, 1988).

Five extremists were killed and sixteen other injured, in an encounter with the security forces in the outskirts of Logar (29 June, 88).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: 8 May: Mujahideen attack regime troops evacuating the district headquarters in Saidabad. The Mujahideen seized one tank, one APC, one truck, one jeep, one mortar and other weapons.

During the Mujahideen attack, Russian aircraft bombarded the area around the headquarters, killing two Mujahideen and injuring three others.

The Mujahideen now control the district.

22 May: Mujahideen attacked regime posts and positions around the provincial centre. Several troops were killed or wounded.

On June 5, Mujahideen block the highway connecting provincial headquarters Maidan Shehr with Kabul. Kabul troops guarding 3 security posts of Maidan Shehr joined Mujahideen. The siege of Maidan Shehr continued with sporadic clashes taking place from time to time.

On June 26, Maidan Shehr was reported to have fallen to the Mujahideen. Located only 40 km from Kabul it has strategic significance.

VIRA: The Mujahideen destroyed a post of Soviet and government troops and killed or wounded 60 communists in Wardak province. They also wiped out an enemy military post in Maidan Shehr in the same province and killed or wounded more than 60 communist troops on the 10th of this month. A large quantity of weapons was captured during these operations (News Pushto: 13 June, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen are still maintaining control over Maidan Shehr despite joint attacks by the Soviet-Kabul troops on the positions of the Mujahideen. In the recent fierce battle between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops in that city, a Soviet helicopter was shot down and a huge quantity of arms was also seized by the Mujahideen. Besides, scores of Soviet-Kabul troops have been killed, wounded or made captive by the Mujahideen (28 June, 88).

BBC: It is now clear that Afghan Mujahideen occupied Maidan Shehr last weekend. The area is located 25 miles from Kabul. It is for the second time during last week that Afghan Mujahideen have captured a provincial capital. But the occupation seems to be short lived.

The report of the occupation of Maidan Shehr was broadcast by Radio Moscow and Soviets have said that Mujahideen kept the area under their control for 24 hours. The report was later confirmed by the Mujahideen but they did not comment on the report saying that the government troops later regained the control of the area.

Western diplomats in Islamabad have different views regarding the situation in Maidan Shehr. Some of them say that the area was occupied only for an hour and the Mujahideen were repulsed, when Presidential guards arrived there. But other diplomatic sources say that situation in Maidan Shehr is still not clear and the Afghan government troops have reoccupied some parts of the military base which they had earlier evacuated.

According to the East European sources, the Home Minister, Saif Mohammad Gulabzai has been sent to Maidan Shehr and so it shows that the situation is serious from Kabul point of view. From observer point of view the attacks on two provincial capitals are aimed at weakening the morale of government troops in order to force them to join the ranks of the Mujahideen and also to show to their foreign supporters to what extent they are strengthened. Some observers say that these offensives were planned in such a manner to make the government troops realize that the Mujahideen are capable of attacking their positions at any time and in any way to clear the road for the victory of the Mujahideen.

The two provincial capitals, Kalat of Zabul and Maidan Shehr of Wardak situated along the Kabul-Qandahar highway are of great strategic importance for the Kabul regime (The World Today Pushto: 28 June, 1988).

TASS: Kabul, 26 June: On the morning of 24 June, Kote Ashrow, the centre of Wardak province, was subjected to a concentrated attack from superior forces of the armed opposition. It took the intransigents just a short time to concentrate near the city. Large armed formations from different groupings numbering more than 2,000 fighters with heavy weaponry, including weapons brought in from other provinces. Overcoming the heroic resistance of the advance posts, the gangs manage to break into the city, which had suffered considerably from shells and other types of heavy weaponry.

The bloody battles in and around the provincial centre continued for more than 24 hours. Having consequently suffered substantial losses, the extremist detachments were forced to retreat outside the city. Annoyed about the high price they had paid for the attempt, they again shelled Kowt-e-Ashrow. New damage was done and there have been casualties among the civilian population.

The situation in the city is getting back to normal, additional units from the Afghan armed forces and the Sarandoy have been brought in. The damage and losses suffered by the enemy is being calculated.

The insurgents raid on Wardak province is seen here as a manifestation of the new tactics being adopted by the opposition. Obviously unable to seize large cities such as Jalalabad or Qandahar — as their leaders had promised — they have decided to focus their attention on relatively small provincial centres in order to seize them for a time, regardless of losses, in an attempt to have above all a propaganda effect. After a recent crushing defeat near Qalat (the centre of Zabul province) their raid on the Kowt-e-Ashrow area was a major failure (Moscow, Pravda: 26 June, 1988).

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below were the major Kabul Radio themes in June 1988 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Geneva Accords are being constantly violated by the "armed opposition". Foreign intervention continues and Pakistan is arming the rebels.
2. General Zia-ul-Haq is not earnest about Pakistani commitments regarding Afghanistan. He dismissed Mr. Junejo as he wanted

to implement the Geneva Accords.

3. The Afghan people and Government strongly support the Geneva Accords and efforts to restore peace and compliance of withdrawal schedule by the Soviet troops.
4. The extremists are continuing subversive activities in different parts of the country. Security forces are wiping out such elements, vigilantly and effectively.
5. The political opposition in Pakistan is aware of General Zia's designs against freedom and democracy. They want the government to abide by the Geneva Agreement.

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media themes in June 1988 in descending order of recurrence:

1. The Extremist Elements continue their armed activities. Pakistan is arming Afghan terrorists in violation of Geneva Agreement.
2. Pakistan government's sincerity regarding implementation of Geneva Accords is questionable. Pakistan will be responsible if the pullout of Soviet troops is delayed.
3. Intervention of foreign elements is continuing. Psychological warfare against Afghanistan has intensified. Arms supplies are pouring into the country.
4. Soviet troops are withdrawing from Afghanistan. Private and government circles in USSR and laud Afghanistan compliance of the Geneva Agreement by the Soviet Union.
5. Soviet people and their government strongly urge Pakistan government to ensure safe recovery and release of Soviet POWs in Mujahideen custody.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN JUNE 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	90 killed and	65 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	448 killed and	196 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	172 killed and	22 wounded
Defections	:	299 Kabul troops defected and 253 captured	
Mujahideen Casualties	:	236 killed and	217 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	369 killed and	132 wounded

Material Losses

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses:—

Aircraft	15	LMGs	20	Security Posts	48
Helicopters	6	HMGs	6	Khad Offices	3
Tanks	51	Klashnikovs	716	Mine sniffing dogs	
APCs	25			killed	5
HMVs	35	Rocket		Airport	
Trucks	11	Launchers	16	Installations	3
Jeeps	5	Doshaka	2		
Oil Tankers	10	Rifles	5	Power houses	1
Wireless Sets	6	Handgrenades	112	Fuel Reserves	1

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN JUNE 1988 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Mujahideen and Afghan Civilian ("Counter-revolutionaries") Losses:

Killed	871	and 261 wounded
Captured	21	
(i) Civilian Returnees	6390	(Those availing amnesty, voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance and joining Soviet Kabul ranks).
(ii) Armed Men Surrendering	780	

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Stinger Missile	1	
Vehicle	3	
Dshkn gun	24	
Explosives	Over 16	bags
Munition depots	11	
Rounds of Ammunition	Over 3000	
Ground-to-ground missiles	1643	
"reactivator" unit	64	
LMGs	11	
Bases/Hideouts	19	
Mortars	19	
Recoilless guns	21	with shells
Quantities of Arms and Ammunition	23	
Mines (misc.)	271	
Assorted weapons	166	
Boxes of Bullets	21	

Losses inflicted by "counter-revolutionary" elements

Human Losses:

Killed	97
Wounded	124

Material Losses:

Vehicles 2, Shops 12, Mosques 8, Houses 30 and School 3

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN JUNE 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engage- ments	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	1	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	3	Lashkargarh	—	1
Qandahar	35	Qandahar	5	7
Zabul	4	Kalat Gilzai	1	—
Ghazni	5	Ghazni	1	—
Paktika	6	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	10	Gardez	—	—
Ningarhar	13	Jalalabad	—	—
Kunar	22	Chagha Sarai	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	2	Faizabad	—	1
Takhar	7	Taloqan	—	—
Kunduz	3	Kunduz	—	—
Baghlan	10	Baghlan	2	1
Samangan	5	Samangan	—	—
Balkh	12	Mazar Sharif	1	1
Jozjan	2	Shebergan	—	1
Sar-e-pul	3	Sar-e-pul	—	—
Faryab	23	Maimana	1	6
Badghis	1	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	8	Herat	—	—
Farah	—	Farah	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	8	Chaghcharan	—	1
Uruzgan	—	Tarin Kot	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	24	Kabul	12	5
Parwan	4	Charikar	—	1
Kapisa	2	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	1	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	8	Pule Alam	—	—
Wardak	9	Koteasro	—	1
TOTAL	231		23	25

APPENDIX — 4

MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN JUNE 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	—	1	—	—	1
Hilmand	1	2	—	—	3
Qandahar	7	22	4	2	35
Zabul	1	3	—	—	4
Ghazni	1	4	—	—	5
Paktika	2	—	3	1	6
Paktiya	2	6	2	—	10
Ningarhar	2	10	—	1	13
Kunar	1	6	10	5	22
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	2	—	—	2
Takhar	—	6	—	1	7
Kunduz	—	3	—	—	3
Baghlan	3	6	—	1	10
Samangan	—	2	—	3	5
Balkh	3	9	—	—	12
Jozjan	—	1	—	1	2
Sar-e-pul	—	2	1	—	3
Faryab	3	1	9	10	23
Badghis	—	1	—	—	1
Bordering Iran					
Herat	4	3	1	—	3
Farah	—	—	—	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	1	4	3	—	8
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	5	15	1	3	24
Parwan	2	1	—	1	4
Kapisa	—	1	—	1	2
Laghman	1	—	—	—	1
Logar	2	1	5	—	8
Wardak	1	3	5	—	9
TOTAL:	42	115	44	30	231

APPENDIX — 5

PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND RETURNEES IN JUNE 1988 (Radio Kabul)

Provinces	Security Forces Operations	Counter- revolutionaries Action	Prisoners released	Returnees numbers	Members of Armed groups surrendered
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	—	—	—	223	—
Hilmand	3	—	—	36	—
Qandahar	7	1	—	1260	—
Zabul	8	2	—	—	—
Ghazni	4	1	5	1220	—
Paktika	2	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	9	6	—	490	—
Ningarhar	21	5	36	570	10
Kunar	—	—	63	135	—
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	1	—	700	—
Takhar	4	—	6	—	10
Kunduz	—	—	—	—	—
Baghlan	—	—	—	—	—
Samangan	—	1	—	—	—
Balkh	—	—	—	—	—
Jozjan	—	—	51	—	300
Sar-e-pul	—	—	—	—	10
Faryab	3	1	—	—	120
Badghis	3	1	—	—	—
Bordering Iran					
Herat	1	2	48	700	12
Farah	4	2	—	15	300
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	8	11	210	426	18
Parwan	1	1	—	55	—
Kapisa	2	1	—	—	—
Laghman	1	—	—	240	—
Logar	3	—	—	320	—
Wardak	1	2	—	—	—
TOTAL:	85	38	419	6390	780
Incidents in 20 provinces					

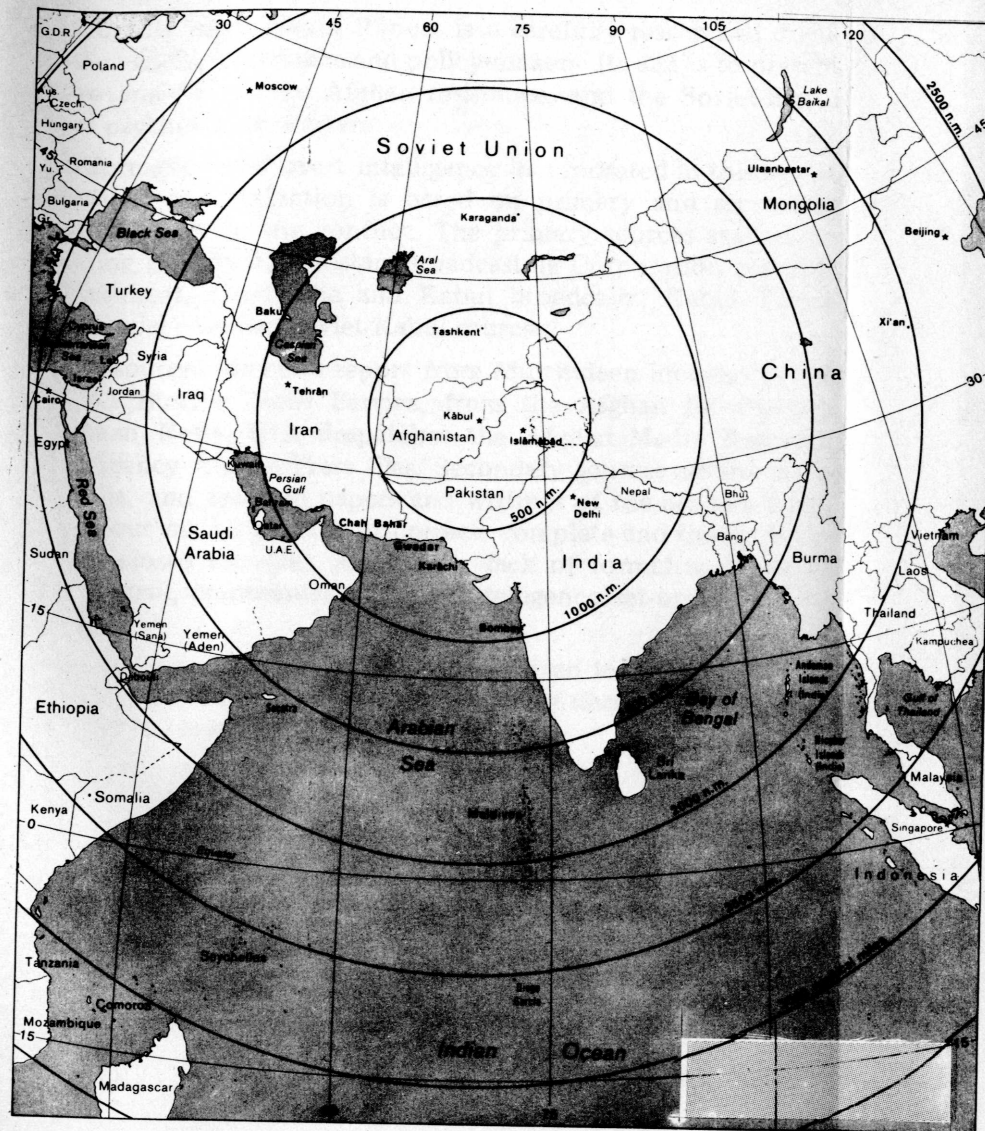
APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES IN JUNE 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses destroyed/ Damaged	Heads of Live- stocks	Date (1988)
		K	W			
Qandahar	Hazaratji	80	—	—	—	25/5
Qandahar	Panjwai	20	50	30	—	27/5
Paktiya	Zazi	30	—	—	—	5/5
Kunar	Barikot	106	—	—	—	2/6
Kunar	Oghuz Shallkhor	3	—	—	36	7/5
Samangan	Aibak city	52	150	67	—	17/6
Faryab*	Balooch Qatoor Deh Sayed	—	—	15 village bombarded	—	5/6
Herat	Karakh	3	10	15	—	24/5
Ghor	Tolak	48	—	30	—	14/5
Kabul	Bagrami	10	20	—	—	12/6
Logar	Mohammad Agha Town	9	10	—	—	6/6
Wardak	Sultan Khel	2	2	—	—	5/5
Wardak	Jalrez	5	10	—	—	4/6
Total: 13 incidents		364	252	142	36	

*400 Families displaced in the rural areas surrounding Maimana.

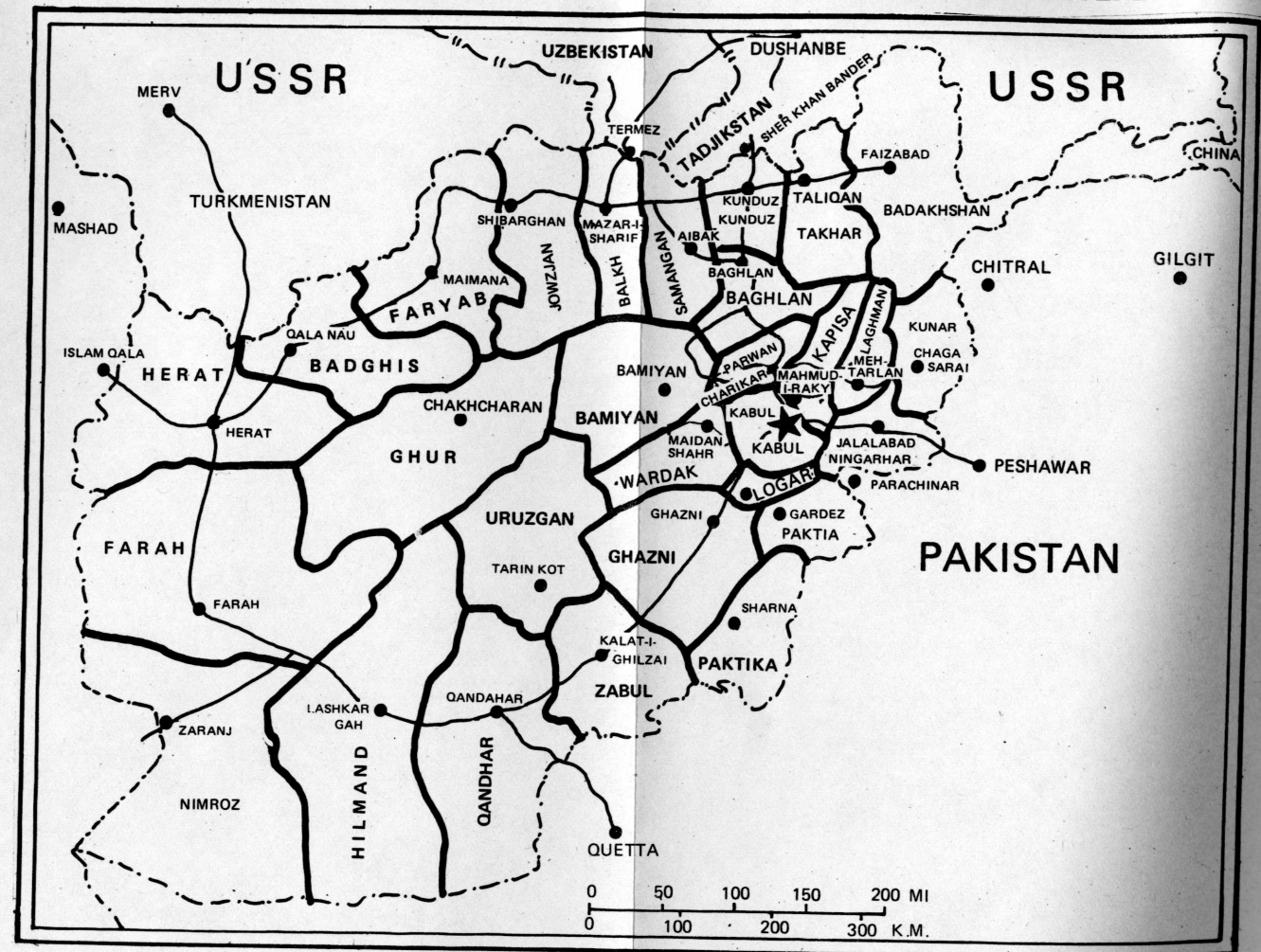
APPENDIX - 7 A



APPENDIX - 7

MAPS

APPENDIX - 7 B



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during June 1988 in 27 Provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Farah, Bamiyan, and Uruzgan.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during June 1988 in 20 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Nimruz, Kunar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Balkh, Jozjan, Sar-e-Pul, Bamiyan, Ghor and Uruzgan.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Kabul Times, and FBIS material covering Soviet-Kabul sources.

Primary sources for news report from Mujahideen include: IUAM Handouts, A1 Bunyan News Service, from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, HIA despatches the Afghan Media Resource Centre and Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during June 1-30, 1988. Appendices 1-7 also incorporate May 1988 incidents reported in June 1988.

II.— THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — MESSAGES, MEETINGS AND VISITS

Messages

Messages on various occasions were sent to, received from and exchanged with the following countries and organizations: Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, India, Ireland, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Mali, Philippine, Scycheles, Sweden, UNO, USSR and Vietnam.

Meetings

Najibullah President of the Republic of Afghanistan met on June 4, in Moscow, Mikhail Gorbachev. Gorbachev briefed Najibullah on the results of the summit talks held with US President Ronald Reagan. Najibullah and Mr. Gorbachev exchanged views on the situation around Afghanistan, stressed the significance of the policy pursued by the government of Afghanistan for putting an end to bloodshed and opening an intera-Afghan dialogue. The sides expressed their mutual wish to develop further broad cooperation in various fields to find ways and forms of its further deepening (Kabul Times: 5 June, 1988).

The Afghan President Dr. Najibullah has met in New York with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and his envoy on the Afghan settlement Diego Cordovez. Dr. Najibullah informed them of his country's intention to fully implement the Geneva accords in Afghanistan and said it was necessary that the other side abide by the accords as well. They also discussed the prospects for Afghanistan to receive economic and humanitarian aid from the United Nations to cope with the effects of war. Perez de Cuellar said he was satisfied that the Afghan side has been abiding by the Geneva accords (Radio Moscow: 7 June, 1988).

President Najibullah met on June 8, the President of the Republic of Brazil at the headquarters of the UN. They discussed matters of mutual interest (Kabul Times: 11 June, 1988).

Najibullah met with Rajiv Gandhi in New York. The situation in the region, relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and India, the process of the realization of the policy of NR in Afghanistan and the implementation of the Geneva accords and a number of other issues of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting (Kabul Times: 11 June, 1988).

Najibullah held a meeting in Kremlin on June 13, with Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU CC. They exchanged views on international and regional situation as well as on the implementation of NR policy in Afghanistan and the process of Geneva accords (Kabul Times: 15 June, 1988).

Dr. M. Hassan Sharq, Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan on June 23, met Faubert Carol, head of the UN team for resettling the Afghan refugees and Pierre Bertrand head of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Kabul. Views were exchanged on the extension of the UNHCR cooperations in the return and resettling of Afghan refugees. The Prime Minister informed the delegation of the plans of Afghan government in the acceptance and resettling of refugees as well as future measures to be taken in this regard (Kabul Times: 25 June, 1988).

Abdul Wakil Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is in New York to take part in the third special session of the UNGA on disarmament called on the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The Foreign Minister spoke highly of the recent efforts by the Secretary General for the implementation of Geneva accords and organizing economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan for the resettlement of the repatriates (Kabul Times: 5 June, 1988).

Abdul Wakil, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met on June 8, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, Coordinator of UN humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and exchanged views (11 June, 1988).

Visits

A high ranking delegation led by Satish Chandra, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the government of India arrived in Kabul, on June 19, to take part in the work of the 8th session of the Afghan-India joint commission (Kabul Times: 20 June, 1988).

Bruno Bottai, special envoy of the Italian President and general secretary of the Foreign Ministry of Italy arrived in Kabul on May 31. He is carrying a message of the Italian President Francisco Cossiga to President Najibullah (Kabul Times: 1 June, 1988).

President Najibullah left on June 3, for New York leading a high-level delegation to participate in the third special session of the UNGA on disarmament. The Afghan delegation to the third special session of the UNGA on disarmament also includes Abdul Wakil, Foreign Minister, Shah Mohammad Dost, permanent representative at the UN and Eshaq Tukhi, first presidential aid (Kabul Times: 4 June, 1988).

After attending the third special session of the UNGA on disarma-

ment Najibullah went to Havana, leading a high level Afghan delegation for an official friendly visit at the invitation of Fidel Castro (Kabul Times: 11 June, 1988).

A joint delegation of Kabul City Party Committee and the Council of People's Deputies left on June 10, for Soviet Union on the invitation of Moscow City Party Committee and the Council of People's Deputies of Moscow for an official and friendly visit. The delegation will sign protocol in Moscow on mutual cooperation and assistance.

President Najibullah arrived in Moscow on June 12, on his way back to Kabul from Havana. At the airport Najibullah was received by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze (Kabul Times: 11 June, 1988).

The Cuban delegation led by Manuel Castillo Rabasa, Minister of Communication of Cuba, arrived on June 20, to participate in the first session of Afghan-Cuban Joint Techno-Economic Commission (Kabul Times: 21 June, 1988).

A friendship treaty between the Republic of Afghanistan and Cuba was signed on June 11 in Havana. The treaty was signed on the Afghan side by President Najibullah and by Fidel Castro representing Cuba. They also signed a protocol on scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. A cooperation protocol between the PDPA and the Communist Party of Cuba was also signed in Havana (Kabul Times: 13 June, 1988).

2 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Politburo Session Held

A session of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, was held on June 16. The Politburo reviewed the results of President Najibullah's visit to New York, leading a high ranking state delegation to participate in the third special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament and also his official visit to Cuba.

The politburo also reviewed the work of the National Assembly on the debate of the vote of confidence in new government and considered it as a big stride in deepening and expansion of democracy, realization of the NR policy and the great confidence of the people in the National Assembly of Afghanistan based on setting up the multi-party system of coalition government (Kabul Times: 18 June, 1988).

House of Representatives Meets

According to a report the House of Representatives met on June 20, under the Chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Abawi, in order to form

permanent commissions of the House. Members of these commissions were elected by the deputies. The session set up commissions for procedure, international affairs, defence and national security affairs, cultural affairs of nationalities, tribes and nationalities, planning affairs, national economy, finance and budget, agriculture, land and water reforms, trade, industry and transport, legislative affairs, repatriates affairs, nomads and commission for public grievances and for preserving rights of the citizens in the House. 120 deputies were unanimously elected as members of these commissions (Kabul Times: 21 June, 1988).

Appointments

The following decree No. 298, dated June 4, 1988, appointing the Vice Presidents of the Republic of Afghanistan has been issued by President Najibullah. As per the provision of clause 8, Article 81 of the constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I appoint as Vice-Presidents of the Republic of Afghanistan:

1. Mr. Abdul Rahim Hatif.
2. Mr. Col. Gen. Mohammad Rafie.
3. Mr. Abdul Hamid Muhtat.
4. Mr. Abdul Wahid Sarabi.

The National Assembly will take its decision in this regard in one of its early sessions (Kabul Times: 4 June, 1988).

On the basis of decree No. 284, dated 7-3 1367 (HS) of President Najibullah, Haji Ghawsuddin son of Ali Ahmad, Malik Sharif son of Ghulam Reza, Abdul Qadir Shinwari son of Afghan have been appointed as Senators (Kabul Times: 2 June, 1988).

Cabinet Announced

Following is the composition of the government presented to the House of Representatives by Prime Minister designate Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq:

1. Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Prime Minister.
2. Sayed Amanuddin Amin, Mohammad Sarwar Mangal, Mahbubullah Koshani, Deputy Prime Ministers.
3. Hamidullah Tarzi, Finance Minister.
4. Sayed Mohammad Gulabzai, Interior Minister.
5. Noor Ahmad Baris, Minister of Higher and Vocational Education.
6. Ghulam Farouq Yaqubi, Minister of State Security.
7. Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
8. Mohammad Khan Jalalar, Minister of Commerce.
9. Sultan Hussain, Minister of Planning.

10. Mohammad Ghufuran, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms.
11. Sulaiman Laeq, Minister of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs.
12. Abdul Ghafar, Minister of Repatriates.
13. Prof. Ghulam Rasoul, Minister of Education.
14. Pacha Gul Wafadar, Minister of Civil Aviation.
15. Mohammad Aziz, Minister of Transport.
16. Mohammad Ishaq Kawa, Minister of Mines and Industries.
17. Raz Mohammad Pakteen, Minister of Water and Power.
18. Nazar Mohammad, Minister of Constructions.
19. Mohammad Aslam Watanyar, Minister of Communications.
20. Mohammad Asif Zahir, Minister of Rehabilitation and Rural Development.
21. Dost Mohammad Fazel, Minister of Light Industries and Food-stuffs.
22. Mohammad Bashir Baghlani, Minister of Justice.
23. Ministers without Portfolio.

Dr. Nematullah Pazhwak, Sar Jang Zazai, Faqir Mohammad Yaqubi, Fazul Haq Khaleqyar, presently Governor of Herat, and Shah Mohammad Dost who is also Ambassador and permanent representative of the Republic of Afghanistan in the United Nations.

Minister of Defence and Islamic Affairs will be announced later (Kabul Times: 8 June, 1988).

Home and Foreign Policies

The domestic and foreign policy line of the government laid by Mohammad Hassan Sharq was approved and the government won the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives on June 16, on completing the six days of debate (Kabul Times: 18 June, 1988).

Sharq Spells Out Home and Foreign Policies

"As the government is not monopolized by any organization or political party in the conditions of the policy of national reconciliation, the political activities of opposition parties is allowed in compliance with Article 5, chapter 1 of the constitution of Afghanistan, and the government assists and protects their peaceful activities not contrary to the law on political parties.

Like other citizens of the country, the members of the parties and political organizations would enjoy the same responsibility and privileges.

Implementation of the policy of cultural growth and balanced social service for the welfare of all countrymen is the task of the government and its mission at present for the establishment of country-

wide peace and security.

For the just and correct implementation of the domestic policy, it is the task of all the government members to strictly implement the policy of appointing the cadres to effective work according to their specialization, talent and interest. They should prevent the spread of administrative corruption and resolutely struggle against bribery, nepotism, violation of rights and giving privileges to profiteers and individuals who have connections.

The system of administration and government employment needs to be revised, refined and improved as regards the division of duties, methods of work and speed of action. The government should prevent bureaucracy and any interference in the system of the country's administration which bother the people and waste time and energy. All countrymen, party or non-party, can enjoy equally without any distinction and segregation each post and job in the government on the basis of his merit and qualifications. The government encourages the meritorious employees, both men and women, and enables their progress. No one can guarantee to keep on holding a government job without having merit and sincere striving and cooperation. Each government employee is bound to discharge his duties within the authority entrusted to him by the laws and regulations.

We hope that with the government members having attention to fulfilling this principled policy. We can win the satisfaction of the countrymen and particularly, of you esteemed deputies, and the President of the country.

As enshrined in chapter 13 of the Constitution, Afghanistan is a non-aligned country and one of the co-founders of the non-aligned movements. Afghanistan is in the same front along with countries which are struggling for peace and peaceful co-existence in the world, upholds the UN charter, its resolutions and activities for tackling regional and international disputes, and supports the right to self-determination and the just struggles of all the world's nations, keeping in line with the UN Charter and the universal declaration of human rights. Our mind is concentrated more at this juncture on those nations and peoples of our continent and region, like the Pashtoons and Baluchis, whose history is full of heroic struggles for ensuring their human and national rights.

In its foreign policy, the government gives priority to non-alignment and persistently follows the non-aligned policy and reflects it at the international level. The government believes and is ready to have bilateral socio-economic and cultural relations with all countries, regardless of their forms and socio-political systems, on the basis of the

principles of equality of rights, mutual respect to independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, non-resort to force or threat of force and condemnation of all forms of interference and intervention.

Based upon the foreign policy of the country, the government designate is ready to agree with any country willing to establishing and develop relations with us on the basis of international principles. Because, it is our heartfelt desire to live in peace and strengthen friendly ties with all nations and peoples, particularly with the neighbouring and Islamic countries, based on mutual respect and cooperation.

In accordance with strengthening the principles of neighbourliness and the historic past, I would like to point out that our good-neighbourly relations and friendship with the Soviet Union are invincible.

Historic relations of effection and remarkable common values have maintained our immortal friendship with India. Our relations with Iran used to be good in the past. But, regrettably during the period of less than ten years, the atmosphere of our relations with this neighbouring Islamic country has become cloudy, partially due to the factors of interference in the internal affairs of our country and misunderstandings on the part of the Iranian government.

Now that the Geneva accords have entered into force, we hope the government of Iran would review its relations with our country. We too, are ready to contribute our share for removing the misunderstandings and shall strive for establishing good relations between the two neighbouring Islamic countries. Our country is always ready for having good relations with Pakistan and has tried to establish good and normal relations with that country. But the opposition are, regrettably, armed supplied, and interference in the internal affairs of our country is conducted, from the territory of Pakistan. And this has led to some darkness in the bilateral relations of the two neighbouring Islamic countries.

We hope the government of Pakistan would strictly observe the Geneva accords. Thanks to the good offices of the UN Secretary General and the guarantee of the Soviet Union and the United States on the implementation of the accords. We hope the government of Pakistan would act sincerely like the governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, so that favourable and fruitful possibilities are created for good relations and cooperation between the two Islamic neighbours.

In the same way, we want to maintain and expand good and friendly relations with People's Republic of China.

Too many moral ties bind us with the western and Islamic countries.

We would maintain close cooperation with the non-aligned and Third World Countries for ensuring peace and in their struggle against colonialism in any form and racism.

While we are surely for good relations with all countries of the world, we thank the government of the United States for signing the Geneva accords and affirming non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and wish the United States to translate what it has itself signed and agreed to for ending the calamity of ruin and hated war in Afghanistan. We would like to extend our heartiest thanks for the conclusion of Geneva accords to the UN Secretary General and his personal envoy, Mr. Diego Cordovez as well as to Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, coordinator of the UN humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and their other esteemed colleagues.

Based on the foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan, we support the condemnation of war and implementation of peace policy the world over, and want the immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war. We uphold the just cause of the Palestinian people and the just struggles of the world nations for ensuring democracy, independence and territorial integrity of their countries and condemn racism, sowing of discord, and imperialism. We back the policy of reduction of nuclear weapons and their gradual elimination in the interest of peace and security in the world in accordance with the Soviet-US agreements and expansion of these accords to the stage of total elimination of these weapons. We hope to see a day when the world is rid of nuclear weapons and the threat of a nuclear war, so that all human beings can peacefully co-exist as brothers, enjoying equal right to life and survival" (Kabul Times: 8 June, 1988).

Afghan Resistance

The leader of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, Pir Syed Ahmed Gilani relieved Gulbadin Hikmatyar from the office of President of the IUAM, during a ceremony in Mujahideen's headquarters in Peshawar, Pakistan on June 15, 1988. Mr. Gilani will remain head of the Afghan Resistance Movement for three months (VOA: 16 June, 88).

Leader of the seven-party Alliance of Afghanistan Syed Ahmad Gilani has called upon the Afghan Mujahideen not to create obstacles in the way of return of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. He stated this during his first press conference in Peshawar on June 19, after becoming Chairman of the Alliance (AIR: 20 June, 1988).

Mujahideen leader Hikmatyar has said that his guerilla troops would topple the pro-Soviet, Kabul government the day the last Soviet soldier left the capital. "Without the Russians, Najibullah's regime has

no chance of survival." Replying to a question, Hikmatyar said "a broad unity was growing among Afghan guerilla leaders and politicians in exile. Unity is growing, an interim government is in the process of being built. Our military commanders will take their place in the ruling council of our alliance. The Afghan people will remember who fought longest and best for them. I am not saying we are the strongest but in a war of liberation a party and a leader always emerge to be ideal for the people" (REUTER: 3 June, 1988).

Mujahideen Interim Government Rejected by Iran based Parties

In Afghanistan, the leader of a big guerilla groups, Ayatullah Mohsini has said, he does not recognize the interim government which was announced on June 19, 1988 by the Pakistani-based Afghan Guerilla Alliance since it does not represented the entire Afghan Resistance Movement (BBC: 20 June, 1988).

Hikmatyar says Soviet prisoners will be released only when all the Soviet troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan. In an interview, the outgoing Chairman of the Resistance Alliance, Gulbadin Hikmatyar said the prisoners were healthy and were being permitted to make contacts with relatives. He said he would consider a request from the International Red Cross or other such agencies to negotiate the release of Soviet prisoners. Gulbadin gave no details of the total number of the Soviet claim, however, expectedly there are 311 soldiers held by the Resistance Forces (Radio Beijing: 16 June, 1988).

Addressing a press conference in Peshawar, the Jamiat-e-Islami Chief, Burhanuddin Rabbani said that the Mujahideen have liberated thirty towns of Afghanistan, since the beginning of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. He added that the Mujahideen have either wiped out or captured one hundred and fifty security posts of the Communist forces, during this period.

The Jamiat-e-Islami Chief also strongly criticized the stand of the Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi. Referring to the remarks of Rajiv Gandhi that a fundamentalist government in Afghanistan would pose a threat to the security of the region, he said that the regional security has already been endangered by the Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan and the Indian hegemonism in Sri Lanka. He said India should not criticize the Afghan Muslim people's struggle for the right of self-determination (Radio Tehran: 22 June, 1988).

Interim Government President Interviewed

The President of the government formed by Afghan Mujahideen said that he will soon send delegations to other countries to press them

to recognize the government of Afghan Mujahideen. He said his government is setting up offices in various countries which will later get the status of embassies. He said that the first step was to announce their cabinet, which they did and the other is that they should ask the world to recognize the Resistance Movement as the sole representative of Afghan people and ignore the Soviet installed Kabul government. The leader of the interim government said that they have to inform the world that they control more than eighty per cent area of Afghanistan and majority of Afghan people are with them and the number of people supporting the Communist Government is not more than five thousand. He said, it will be unwise that the world should recognize the government comprising only five thousand people and ignore twenty million people. He expressed the hope that all countries of the world and particularly Muslim countries would recognize their government. President Ahmad Shah also said that now they are watching which Islamic country first gives recognition to their government. When asked about his views about Saudi Arabia, he immediately replied that what is your view about Pakistan. The leader of Mujahideen government further said that he has been formally informed that if any of the Islamic countries dared in this regard the United States would be the second country to recognize the Afghan Mujahideen government. In reply to a question, he said that they have informed the world to recognize them when they start business of their government inside Afghanistan and not in Pakistan. President Ahmad Shah said that his government started working here temporarily (VOA: 27 June, 1988).

3 — NATIONALITIES POLICIES

Jirgahs Held

Najibullah, participated on June 17, in a grand tribal jirgah of chieftains and elders of Kunar and Ningarhar provinces held in Kabul. He spoke on the implementation of NR policy, the Geneva accords and violations made by Pakistan of Geneva accords. Elders and chieftains of Shinwar, Khogiani, Safi, Salarzai, Mamund, Pashaie and Alikozaie tribes of the provinces were present at the jirgah (Kabul Times: 19 June, 1988).

Heads and chieftains of tribes of Tajik, Chikzai and chieftains of Gulran and Shindand district of Herat province, held a peace jirgah recently to support Geneva agreements and the national reconciliation policy. The participants expressed their readiness to help repatriates and implement the policy of NR (Kabul Times: 23 June, 1988).

Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Prime Minister received on June 18,

representatives, chieftains and elders of Khogyiani, Shinwar, Mamond, Safi, Salarzai, Alekozaie and Pashaie tribes of Kunar and Ningarhar provinces. Present at the meeting was Sulaiman Laeq, Minister for Nationalities and Tribal Affairs. Discussions were held at the meeting on the living conditions and economic and agricultural problems faced by the people in the said provinces (Kabul Times: 20 June, 1988).

The chieftains of Saleh Sahak Kaleo Momozai and Oria Khel tribes of Zarmat district and Esa Khel, Salam Khel, Peroz Khel, Kamal Khel and Shali Khel of Syed Karam district of Paktia province, held a peace jirgah recently in Gardez city. They expressed readiness to help the repatriates and organize defence groups to maintain peace in their region (Kabul Times: 22 June, 1988).

Heads, chieftains and influential personalities of different tribes of Logar province in a jirgah held in Kabul on June 1st, supported the Geneva accords and the policy of NR. Lt. Gen. Ghulam Nabi Yousufi, Deputy Minister of Frontier and Tribal Affairs spoke at the jirgah on the Geneva accords and their importance for peace and security in Afghanistan. He also informed the jirgah of the aims of establishing demilitarized areas for helping return of Afghan refugees (Kabul Times: 2 June, 1988).

Elders and chieftains of Rustam Khel nomad tribe and Hazara nationality of Parwan province expressed their support to the realization of Geneva accords in a jirgah held on June 3, at the Charikar city (Kabul Times: 5 June, 1988).

In a jirgah chieftains, elders and social figures of Kulman clan of Alinagar district, Laghman province gave their all round support to the Geneva agreements (Kabul Times: 11 June, 1988).

A preparatory jirgah of Pashaie nationality was held on May 30, in the Frontiers and Tribal Affairs Ministry regarding the convening of countrywide jirgah of Pashaie nationality. A number of Pashaie national talked on the need for the jirgah and expressed their readiness to participate in it (Kabul Times: 1 June, 1988).

Religion

The high Islamic consultative council of the Republic of Afghanistan, held its second session on June 16, in Kabul with President Najibullah, attending Maulvi Faqirullah Shahibul Haq was elected unanimously as Chairman of the High Islamic Consultative Council of the Republic of Afghanistan. Discussions were also held and decision taken on convening an international conference in Afghanistan, finding ways and means for developing genuine Islamic culture. Najibullah also addressed the session (Kabul Times: 18 June, 1988).

Najib to Revive the Islamic Culture

Following is a part of the text of the speech which Najibullah delivered in the second session of the High Islamic Consultative Council of the Presidential office: "We are keenly interested in the growth and development of pure Islamic culture which has been under the influence of the culture of strangers owing to diverse factors. It is necessary for us to revive the pure Islamic culture. The works and books of prominent religious scholars and dignitaries should be introduced to the entire world, the libraries of the country should be equipped with the Islamic books so that our people are freed from the superstitious publications which strangers bring to our country. It is necessary to create a unified system among religious institutions and organs for publicity and publications and mutual relations between religious institutions with mosques and Takias in villages and towns should be strengthened. Practical work must be started in this connection as soon as possible. Proposal on beginning TV telecasting with verses from the Holy Quran will be implemented. Definite work has been accomplished for increase of teaching hours of the subjects of religious sciences in general education schools. However, this work by no mean is adequate. The Ministry of Education should take concrete steps in this connection and study the possibility of inaugurating a girls religious lycee" (Kabul Times: 18 June, 1988).

Over two million and 70,000 Afghanis was disbursed last Afghan year (ended March 19, 1988) through the Islamic Affairs and religious trusts department of Farah province to the Ulema and Clergymen of the province. About Afghanis one million was spent in the same period on the construction, repair and decoration of the mosques in the province. Around 300 million Afghanis were distributed last year to Ulema and Clergymen by the High Council of Ulema and the directorate of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts of the Samangan province (Kabul Times: 2 June, 1988).

A session of Ulema and Clergymen of Kabul province was held on May 30, in Wazir Akbar Khan congregational mosque to discuss the cessation of bloodshed, realization of NR pollycy and support to the Geneva accords. The session was sponsored by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts. At the end of the discussions a fatwa (religious verdict) against the continuation of war was adopted.

4 — ECONOMY

Protocols Signed

The protocol of the first session of Afghan-Cuban joint commis-

sion was signed in Kabul on June 23. According to the protocol, Cuba will render all round assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan in the spheres of public health, education, sugar industry, higher education, agriculture, communication Radio-TV and sports (Kabul Times: 25 June, 1988).

The Afghan-Indian 8th joint cooperation protocol in technical, economic, commercial and cultural spheres was signed in Kabul. The protocol was signed for the Afghan side by Mr. Ahmad Fahim, Deputy Planning Minister and for the Indian side by Mr. Satish Chandra, Joint Secretary Indian Foreign Ministry (Kabul Times: 23 June, 1988).

A cooperation protocol between the State Commission for Radio-TV and Cinematography and the Indian TV was signed in Kabul on June 22. Under the protocol, the TV network of the two countries would exchange material on the life and developments in their countries and would cooperate in training cadres (Kabul Times: 23 June 1988).

Protocols on Direct Cooperation

A cooperation protocol was concluded in Kabul, between the Ministry of Power of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Power Ministry of Ukraine-SSR for electrification of the provinces of Parwan and Nimroz. Besides, protocols were signed for further growth and expansion of cooperation between Nimroz province and Kherson province of Ukraine-SSR and Parwan province and Kharkov province of Ukraine-SSR on June 16 (Kabul Times: 18 June, 1988).

A protocol on direct cooperation between the Tajik-SSR and Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces was signed on June 6, in Kabul. According to the protocol, assistance will be provided in the sphere of mechanized agriculture extension and production, cattle breeding, fertilizers, forestry and pastures (Kabul Times: 7 June 1988).

A protocol of direct cooperation between Tajik-SSR and Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces was concluded. Under the protocol assistance will be given to the Afghan provinces in the fields of mechanized agriculture, agricultural production, live-stock services, veterinary, plant protection, improved wheat seeds and fertilizers. Fruits saplings, communication equipment, electric appliances, vehicles, motorcycles, garments and medical equipment as well as heads of cattle all valued at over 250,000 roubles donated by Qurghan Tepa province of Tajik-SSR have been delivered to the authorities in Kunduz province (Kabul Times: 12 June, 1988).

A protocol on economic and cultural cooperation between the provincial committee of DYOA of Balkh province and Surkhandara provincial committee of Youth Union of Uzbek-SSR was signed on

June 7, in Mazar-e-Sharif. According to the protocol, agricultural machines, transport equipment and construction material and equipment will be given to the provincial committee of DYOA of Balkh province by the Surkhandara provincial committee of Youth Union. Exchange of delegations is also provided for in the protocol (Kabul Times: 8 June, 1988).

A protocol on direct cooperation between Astra Khan province of RFSR and Farah province was concluded in Kabul, on May 30. The Astra Khan province will help Farah province in the fields of social services, agricultural irrigation, public health, power energy and education (Kabul Times: 1 June, 1988).

Construction

Last year's construction plan of 19 projects in the framework of Afghan-Soviet cooperation has been implemented by the Ministry of Construction at a cost of over 1.135 billion Afghanis. 35 projects, costing 2.230 billion Afghanis, were completed by the Ministry last year (Kabul Times: 5 June, 1988).

Trade

The plan of turnover in domestic trade (whole sale and retail) of the state and cooperative sectors for the current year has been estimated at 47,287 million Afghanis i.e. 9% more than last year of the total turnover 27,490 million Afghanis to wholesale trade (Kabul Times: 2 June, 1988).

Foreign Trade

Afghan carpet won a gold medal in the spring international fair held from May 9—15 in Plovdiv city of Bulgaria. A gold medal was awarded to Afghan carpets in Leipzig international exhibition also. One million and twenty thousand square metres of carpets were exported last Afghan year (ended March 19, 1988), through the Guide, earning over 50 million dollars.

Ministry of Commerce has been assigned to purchase, import and preserves foodstuffs and other essential goods needed by the repatriates. In this connection, the Commerce Ministry studied the issue for meeting the primary needs of people in general and those of repatriates in particular. It plans to specify the quantity needed and procure the required items in a fixed time frame. In addition to ensuring the regular supply of essential goods, the Ministry would procure sufficient quantity of wheat, sugar, milk, edible oil, tea, meat, petroleum products, garments and footwear for the repatriates making use of domestic pro-

ducts, assistance and credits of friendly countries. About 16 items, including foodstuffs, garments and petroleum products would be imported. Measures are being taken to procure import and preserve the same through attracting the foreign assistance, UN aid and assistance from various international institutions (Kabul Times: 12 June, 1988).

Withdrawing Forces Gift

The units of the Soviet military contingent, who were stationed in Jalalabad city have gifted on their return Soviet military and economic establishments including 49 billots with their amenities, 7 generators, three water pumps installed for tube wells, a well equipped construction workshop with machines, a gymnasium, five dinning rooms, a swimming pool, a hundred bed hospital, a bakery and a 100 lines automatic telephone exchange. All together these items and establishments costing over 10 million roubles were gifted to Ningarhar armed forces (Kabul Times: 15 June, 1988).

The units of the limited Soviet military contingent who were in Ghazni province have gifted on their return military and economic establishments including 14 billots of officers and soldiers, a club for 100 persons, two generators, four water pumps and other equipment costing over 12.742 million roubles to the Ghazni armed forces (Kabul Times: 8 June, 1988).

Projects Commissioned

A new bitumen plant in Tara Khel area of Deh Sabz district of Kabul province, was inaugurated on June 2, by Mohammad Hakim, Kabul Mayor. The plant could produce annually 20,000 tons of bitumen that can pave 166,000 square metres of city roads (Kabul Times: 4 June, 1988).

Bakery No. 1 of Kabul Bakery Complex, at a cost of 121 million Afghanis from the Soviet gratis assistance, was commissioned at a function on June 4.

A power sub-station was inaugurated on June 23, by Raz Mohammad Paktin, Minister of Water and Power, in the third Microrayan. The sub-station was built with the 38,000 dollars credit of the GDR and 36 million Afghanis from the State Development Budget (Kabul Times: 25 June, 1988).

The Zarnigar tailoring project set up in the private sector with an initial investment of 4,600,000 Afghanis and final capital of 9,600,000 Afghanis was commissioned on June 7, in Kabul. Equipped with 100 tailoring machines, the project has an annual capacity of producing 5,000 pairs of suits, 2,500 over coats and 4,400 shirts (Kabul Times: 8

June, 1988).

Agriculture

The Afghan Prime Minister, Mohammad Hassan Sharq has emphasized the need of restoration of irrigation system destroyed in the war. He said it is one of the basic duties of his government. During meeting of the many Pashtoon tribes of Afghanistan, he appealed to them to help ensure peace in the country and the return of refugees (Radio Moscow: 20 June, 1988).

Over 20,370 hectares of land have been cultivated with wheat grain, corn, cereal, fruits and vegetables in the spring sowing campaign of the current year in Kabul province. 5,320 tons of fertilizer and pesticides, costing over 6.7 million Afghanis, were distributed to peasants during this period. Over 700 tons of fertilizer and 1,308 kg of vegetables seed donated by the Soviet Union, were also distributed free of charge to the peasants (Kabul Times: 23 June, 1988).

Seasonal crops will be grown in the spring and autumn sowing campaign of the current Afghan year (begun March 20, 1988) in an area of 57,430 hectares of land in Kabul province (Kabul Times: 4 June, 1988).

Over 1,25,500 hectares have been cultivated with wheat and cotton during autumn and spring campaigns of the current year in Samangan province. 297 tons of improved wheat seeds, 481 tons of fertilizers, pesticide and insecticides valued at over 8,05,000 Afghanis were distributed to members of cooperatives during the campaign (Kabul Times: 16 June, 1988).

Spinzer enterprise of Kunduz province has donated in the spring sowing campaign this year 1,861 tons of cotton seeds to 5,144 cotton growers of the province. Cotton was cultivated on over 26,590 hectares and it is expected to produce over 2,700 tons of cotton (Kabul Times: 12 June, 1988).

The Foreign Minister and Deputy Chief of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Republic of Tajekistan has announced that Tajekistan will provide 7.6 million Roubles aid for the Afghan border areas. During his recent visit to Kabul, he discussed provisions of seeds of various crops, grass for cattles and pesticides. Tajekistan will help Kunduz in establishing a workshop for the maintenance of tractors and other agricultural machinery and will also help in the reconstruction of irrigation (Radio Moscow: 18 June, 1988).

A Survey of Agriculture in Afghanistan

A report regarding country's loss in agriculture suffered during

ten-year war in Afghanistan was presented to the journalists in London. It has been prepared by a Swedish relief organization and a former Professor of Agriculture Department of Kabul University Dr. Azam Gul.

According to this report the agriculture and cattle heads have suffered losses on a large scale in the war. The results which have been inferred in the report are the outcome of eleven thousand interviews which were given by peasants, farmers and consumers. According to the report the production in the country has reduced to little more than half as compared to 1978, while the average number of sheep and goats have been reduced to two third. Four out of every ten oxen died or they were killed. These oxen are used for ploughing and have much importance from this point of view. The outcome of the report is that the Afghan economy is not in a position to bear the burden of the Afghan refugees coming back to their country. Therefore, the return of the refugees should be completed in phases. Although the harmful effects which the agriculture was facing are now coming to an end following the start of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan, yet peace has not so far been restored in the country. Some effects of war are still being felt in the country. For example the landmines are still present which are very dangerous for cattles. The system of irrigation has also suffered during the war and which according to the report is witnessed in the production of wheat and rice which are of very poor standard. The crops are suffering from diseases, the attacks of sparrows and mice because according to some cultivators children are not available to scare the sparrows. According to report if peace is restored even then three lakh oxen will be needed for restoration of agriculture in the country. Pakistan can provide one hundred oxen monthly. There are so many areas where the oxen cannot be replaced with tractors because taking tractors to these areas is almost impossible. The people who prepared the report say that in such conditions the immediate return of refugees to their homeland will be a serious blunder and the people returning home will have to face great difficulties (BBC: 21 June, 1988).

5 — REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

The United Nations believes that instead of their mass return, the Afghan refugees should go back gradually. VOA's correspondent in Geneva quotes the United Nations Chief Coordinator for aid and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees as having said that rehabilitation would only be possible in the areas which are safe from land-mines:

Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan said it will be premature to say as

to when the return of Afghan refugees will start. On his return to Geneva after visiting Kabul, Islamabad and Tehran, Agha Khan told in a press conference that he informed Afghan President Najibullah that the refugees could only go back when valleys and the villages, where they have to settle, are cleared of the land-mines and made safe from war activities. He said he was told in Kabul that one lakh thirty thousand refugees have returned to their country without waiting for assistance from the United Nations or any other organization. Prince Sadruddin said he did not consider it suitable for all the refugees to go back to the country on a massive scale, as it will be very destructive. The reason being that the living conditions in Afghanistan can not be described as safe and the returnees may find themselves get confronted with a new emergency situation inside the country.

He said after the selection of safe areas, the United Nations is expected to win the confidence of the refugees. He stressed that the United Nations had to assist in the rehabilitation of Afghan refugees and persuade the displaced Afghan people inside the country to restart their normal life (VOA: 2 June, 1988).

The Red Cross Secretary General, Dr. Par Stein Dut alongwith the United Nations relief mission had been to Afghanistan. On his return to Geneva he said, if fifty lakh Afghan refugees did not receive assistance they would face great hardships. He said they would have to face devastation if they did not receive basic amenities of life. According to him, it is still difficult to estimate as to how much assistance will be required for rehabilitation of these refugees, but he stated that government and guerillas, both agree that the aid should be sent to Afghanistan where it is badly required. But Mr. Dut said that in view of the Afghan political conditions, the relief agencies would be unable to work with the conventional methods for distribution of assistance and they would have to adopt a flexible attitude (BBC: 1 June, 1988).

Fund Raising

United Nations Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar has appealed for collection of fund for rehabilitation of Afghan refugees and the United Nations authorities believe that an amount of one billion dollars will be sufficient for this purpose. Whereas there is less possibility that a large number of refugees would return before normalization of situation in Afghanistan. No one has estimated that how much time will be required for the repatriation of these refugees. Whenever their return takes place, their rehabilitation will be a big issue (BBC: 1 June 1988).

UN Coordinator for Aid to Afghanistan has presented a very disappointing picture of the situation in the war-torn country due to its

unlimited requirements. But Sadruddin Agha Khan who visited Afghanistan to review the situation says that the appeal made by the United Nations for aid to Afghanistan has received an encouraging response. He said that in response to UN's appeal for one billion dollars aid fund, 33 million dollars have been contributed so far (VOA: 27 June, 1988).

Australia is to provide 20 million dollars in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan over the next three years. The Prime Minister, Mr. Hawke announced the measures after a meeting with the UN Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar in New York. Mr. Hawke said the move was in response to the UN's appeal for 1.2 thousand million dollars to help repair the ravages of eight years of war in Afghanistan (Radio Australia: 22 June, 1988).

The United Nations announced in Geneva on June 10, that Norway has promised to extend one million dollars assistance to Afghanistan. This is the first country to announce its contribution in the assistance programme for Afghan refugees. Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan has called upon the UN member countries for their assistance. Similarly, the UN Secretary General issued another appeal for assistance to Afghanistan (Radio Kabul: 11 June, 1988).

The Foreign Ministers of the European Community have agreed on a draft proposal of aid for Afghanistan. The details have not been made publicly. But the British Foreign Secretary said that the assistance would be provided for the rehabilitation of refugees. He said that the basic principle would be that as far as possible the assistance should be provided directly who are in the need of the same. This very point will also be stressed during the discussions between the European Community and other international aid-giving agencies (BBC: 14 June, 88).

The United States has urged India to help in the UN efforts to rehabilitate Afghan refugees. The Deputy US Coordinator for Afghan Affairs said, India could play a supporting role in the two billion dollars relief operation. He was speaking at tele-press conference from Washington with four Indian correspondents in New Delhi (AIR: 25 June, 88).

Mujahideen Ask to With-hold Assistance

One of the senior commanders of the Afghan resistance has called on the United Nations to with-hold assistance to Afghanistan until an acceptable and broad-based government has been established there. The resistance leader Abdul Haq made the call during lengthy meeting with Mr. Peko (ph) a senior aide to the UN Secretary General. Palma Toule reports from the United Nations:

It is the first time a senior UN official has met an Afghan field commander, although UN officials have met members of the seven-

party Mujahideen alliance in Pakistan. Mr. Haq told the BBC that the two men discussed the need for a broad-based government in Afghanistan and that he had stressed that the un-representative Najibullah regime must go. He believed the UN's first priority must be to work for a political solution to the Afghan question. If aid was channelled into Afghanistan now, said Mr. Haq, the Najibullah government could use it for military purposes or it could be diverted by government officials. He had asked the UN not to begin the reconstruction of Afghanistan until a broad-base government acceptable to all the Afghan people had been formed (BBC: 21 June, 1988).

6 — EDUCATION, YOUTH AND HEALTH

Education

Over 500 Afghan children who are mostly orphans are being brought up in a children's home in Dushanbe, capital of Tajik-SSR. The children continue their education upto intermediate standard under the direction of Afghan and Soviet teachers.

120 tribal youth were sent during the current Afghan year for studies to the Soviet Union by the Ministry of Border and Tribal Affairs. It is planned to increase the number to 300 persons by the end of the year (Kabul Times: 5 June, 1988).

250 workers, who could not continue their studies for a variety of reasons have been admitted to technical courses of Kabul Auto-Technical School. The academic deputy of school told that the workers who had studied upto 5th grade of the primary school, are admitted to these courses without any entrance examination. After one year of study they are promoted to 9th grade of the school. They receive a stipend of 1,500 Afghanis per month while continuing their studies in the branches of their choice. At present there are 850 students in the day and 120 students in night classes of the school in electrical, auto-repairing and other technical sections of the school. After completing their training, graduates will be given diplomas and licences. It was built with the economic assistance of Techno-Export of the Soviet Union and Ministry of Mines and Industry of Afghanistan in 1973. The first batch of 90 students graduated from the school in 1978. Since over 1,000 students have completed the courses and received diplomas (Kabul Times: 13 June, 1988).

Youth

A protocol on cultural and economic cooperation for 1988-89 between Herat provincial committee of the DYOA and Komsomol

committee of Eshqabad city of Turkman-SSR was signed on June 2. According to the protocol, the friendship festival of Herat DYOA will be held in Eshqabad in the second half of the year. Delegations would be exchanged and some establishments built for Herat DYOA (Kabul Times: 9 June, 1988).

14,000 youth of Herat, volunteered to enlist in the armed forces commissariat of the province last year (ended March 19, 1988) (Kabul Times: 22 June, 1988).

Over 4,200 nomad youth have voluntarily joined the tribal battalion to ensure peace and security in their region (Kabul Times: 25 June, 88).

Health

20 chronic patients of Samangan province, who were sent in two groups to Tashkent city of Uzbek-SSR, recently returned home after being fully cured. Based on the protocol of direct cooperations signed in January 1988 between the Samangan and Tashkent provinces officials, 30 patients in three groups will sent by the end of the current year for treatment to Tashkent (Kabul Times: 2 June, 1988).

7 — SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

A meeting of the presidium of Afghan-Indian friendship association was held on May 30, with Abdul Rahim Muhtat, in the chair. The presidium, Deputy Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the association were elected in the meeting, which also approved the plan work of the association for 1988. The meeting also decided to hold the Afghan-Indian friendship and cultural week in Kabul from August 13—20, to mark 31st founding anniversary of the association and 41st anniversary of India's independence (Kabul Times: 1 June, 1988).

Property Distributed

150 plots of land in the Naubahar project were distributed on June 14, in Mazar-e-Sharif city to families of martyrs. According to a spokesman up to now, plots have been distributed to over 3,000 deserving persons in Mazar-e-Sharif city (Kabul Times: 16 June, 1988).

12 houses built in the 200 family projects of Rahman-Mena were distributed on June 23, by Raz Mohammad Paktin, Minister of Water and Power to families of workers, who were killed during construction, extension and repair of power lines (Kabul Times: 25 June, 1988).

Kabul Regime Human Losses

The Afghan President, Dr. Najibullah has for the first time, given

detailed figures of the number of government troops and supporters killed since 1978 in the Afghan war. He told the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament that the number of dead totalled nearly one quarter of a million. He disclosed this included more than 35,000 women and about 20,000 children. He said nearly 80,000 people had been wounded (BBC: 8 June, 1988).

Prisoners Released

Based on the Presidential decree, prisoners were released from Pul-e-Charkhi 160, Jouzjan 31, Qandahar 20, Herat 48, during the month of June (Kabul Times: 31 May — 9, 14, 20 June, 1988).

Fausto Bilaslavo, Italian national who was pardoned by President Najibullah on the request of Francisco Cossiga, President of Italy was released and handed over to Italian officials by the head of the Consular Section of Foreign Ministry (Kabul Times: 4 June, 1988).

Sentenced to Death

Taj Mohammad son of Mohammad and Mohammad Nadir son of Mohammad Rahim residents of Chardeh area of Kabul sentenced to death by the special revolutionary tribunal for terrorist crimes (Kabul Times: 5 June, 1988).

Culture

400 students are presently enrolled in the music training centre of the State Committee for Culture. The centre was built in 1983 with the cooperation of India and has produced several artists. The full academic course in the centre is six years. The pupils receive at the end of the course a diploma in music. The musical instruments and teachers are provided by the Indian government and partially by the State Committee for Culture (Kabul Times: 16 June, 1988).

The second exhibition of paintings of Kabul University students entitled, "Nigaristan of Behzad" opened on June 10, in the hall of Kabul University library. 150 paintings including miniatures of students of Kabul University are on display in the exhibition (Kabul Times: 14 June, 1988).

A protocol on cooperation between the Writers Association of Afghanistan and the Writers Union of Bulgaria was signed in Kabul on June 21. The protocol is for the years 1988–1990 (Kabul Times: 22 June, 1988).

Afghan plays, "Infirmary in old age" and "The right and the whip" won great praise in the cultural festival held recently in Moscow for their revolutionary content and high artistic quality (Kabul Times: 22 June, 1988).